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Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Syrian Spokesman Rejects Rabin's Format Proposals

TA1304071294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Syria has rejected Prime Minister Rabin's proposals to change the format of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. An official Syrian spokesman has said that secret talks and separate agreements will weaken the Arabs and allow Israel to force its terms on them.

The Syrian spokesman further said that the agreement Israel signed with the PLO did not lead to peace. Rather, it complicated the situation and increased the agony of the Arabs in the territories.

Palestinian Envoy on Problems in Cairo Talks

NC1304181294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, alternate Palestinian ambassador and representative of the Fatah Movement in Cairo, has stated that the PLO will not sign a final agreement with Israel before an implementable solution regarding the geographical jurisdiction is reached.

In a statement made today, al-Qidrah said that although an agreement was reached during the recent Palestinian-Israeli negotiations concerning the establishment of the Palestinian police and its number, weapons, and deployment areas, it would be difficult to sign a final agreement without resolving certain problems.

Al-Qidrah expressed the hope that the next round of negotiations between the two delegations next week will be decisive and achieve the desired positive results.

He called on Israel to demonstrate its seriousness and credibility by quickly implementing its commitments under the Oslo and Cairo agreements, noting that the Palestinian delegation is abiding by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's instructions to work for the establishment of a just peace to ensure the life and future of the peoples in the area.

Al-Qidrah affirmed the importance of the Egyptian role under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in tackling the causes of any possible collapse in the talks from time to time.

Al-Qidrah called for reviving bilateral Arab coordination among the five Arab parties taking part in the negotiations with Israel in accordance with the Arab League Council's decision.

Cairo Talks on Sea, Air Security Issues Detailed

TA1304192094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Apr 94 p A2

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Israel promised the PLO about two weeks ago, around the time that the agreement on security arrangements for Hebron was reached, that implementation of the Gaza and Jericho withdrawal "will be cut from four months, as decided in the Declaration of Principles [DOP], to three weeks." The withdrawal from the Gaza Strip will be carried out from south to north because the Palestinian police force will enter the territory from Egypt through the Rafah border crossing. Jericho will be evacuated almost at the same time as the evacuation of the southern part of the strip.

Discussion on the security situation in the sea and the air began in Cairo this week. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] dispatched Air Force and Navy experts to the talks. As had previously occurred in the talks with the PLO, substantive differences quickly surfaced.

A dispute arose over territorial waters. Israel announced that the width of the Gaza Strip's territorial waters is three nautical miles, the area which will fall under the responsibility of the Palestinian entity. The PLO representatives rejected the suggestion and demanded a 20-mile zone. They explained that the IDF currently permits Gazan fisherman to go out some 20 miles from the coastline and demanded full sovereignty over that area.

When the Israelis explained that determining territorial waters requires international approval and that the Gaza Strip's territorial waters have always been fixed at three miles, the Palestinians suggested signing a joint document expanding the area to 20 miles "and sending it to all the countries of the world."

The Palestinians agreed to the Israeli demand that all flights in the area of the autonomy be coordinated with Israel's air control, but they insisted on setting up a Palestinian national airline, and even promised that so as not to impinge on Israel's overall responsibility for the area, their airline would only fly "to countries which maintain relations with Israel."

The Israelis were surprised by the suggestion. Why a national airline, they asked the PLO representatives since Gaza and Jericho will have only two small landing strips? Israel is opposed to the setting up of an airline, which would require signing international accords, which violates the autonomy's general ban on maintaining foreign relations. The Israeli offer was much less generous: The Palestinians can carry out internal flights from landing strips in Gaza and Jericho, and in special cases, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will be permitted to land there by plane or helicopter from his travels around the world.

Further progress was achieved this week on the clause which imposes restrictions on Palestinian building and activity near traffic axes used by the IDF in the Gaza Strip. At the same time, the PLO did not withdraw its opposition to Israel's regional map on settlements and security in the Gaza Strip, appended to the Cairo agreement.

The PLO this week dispatched representatives to the judicial committee whose task is to work out the appendix discussing criminal and civilian judicial powers and cooperation between the judicial authorities in Israel and the autonomy. In the previous round, the Palestinians failed in their efforts to recruit lawyers, and five Israeli lawyers conducted the negotiations with Nabil Sha'th, head of the PLO delegation to the Cairo talks, who appointed himself to the judicial committee although he is not an attorney.

This time, a Palestinian law professor from London and another attorney from the territories came to the talks. They sat with Sha'th for discussions with the Israeli judicial team headed by Colonel Ahaz Ben-Ari of the military advocate general's office.

The Palestinian professor received the Israelis with an announcement that he firmly opposes the Oslo agreement and called for reopening discussions on issues on which agreement had already been reached and signed in the DOP. Why should Israel enjoy jurisdiction over Israelis and settlements, the professor asked.

At a new conference to sum up the talks, Sha'th said that "problems remain," and gave as an example the judicial powers.

The civilian committee, which discusses the transfer of Civil Administration powers to the Palestinians, has begun to discuss the toughest clause: Transferring water powers in Gaza and Jericho to the PLO. Noah Kinarti, the defense minister's settlement adviser, who is in charge of negotiations on water issues in the bilateral peace talks, attended the Cairo talks. Progress was made in the water talks, but no agreement has yet been reached. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief Holds News Conference on Peace Talks

NC1304124794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid held a news conference this morning in the Press Syndicate office.

He said the south Lebanon issue has nothing to do with the Middle East problem. He expressed the hope that the Lebanese negotiations [with Israel] would resume and that Israel would withdraw from south Lebanon and from all the occupied Arab territories, because the Arabs have a just cause.

In his news conference, which coincided with the 19th anniversary of the war in Lebanon, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: We hoped the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho would have been implemented today. But Israel has retreated from its position. He stressed that the Arabs have a just cause and that the negotiations must continue and succeed, especially if the aim is to achieve peace:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Majid recording] There are of course difficulties and obstacles facing the peace negotiations. This is happening on every track: the Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian. But the peace process must continue and we must not decide to stop the negotiations with Israel. I do not support such a stance because we have a just cause. It would be the easiest thing to stop the negotiations but the most difficult thing to resume them, especially if their aim is to achieve peace. Peace is [words indistinct] and is missed most by those who are deprived of it. [passage omitted]

The peace negotiations must continue but continuing them does not mean I capitulate. Never. I insist on my stance and do not abandon my demands. I do whatever would ensure the success of these negotiations and peace. I reiterate that peace is not a gift from Israel to the Arab countries. Not at all. Israel is acting as if it is honoring us with peace. Thank you very much. When the just and comprehensive peace is achieved, Israel will be among the first to benefit from it. [end recording]

'Abd-al-Majid on Lifting Boycott on al-'Aqabah

NC1304141594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Beirut, 13 Apr (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has revealed the organization's readiness to bolster and support Jordan's stance on lifting the international boycott on the Port of al-'Aqabah. This boycott is threatening the Jordanian economy. However, he added that the Arab League has so far not received a request from Jordan on this issue.

In a statement he made today, 'Abd-al-Majid asked the Security Council and the United States to review this stance, which is affecting Jordan's economy, to achieve peace and stability in the region.

Shaykh Yamani Predicts Iraqi Return to Oil Market

PM1304103294 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Yamani: Iraq Returns to Oil Market Next Year"]

[Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—Former Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani told an oil conference in London yesterday that there are indications that a number of Security Council members have become more agreeable to Iraq's returning to the world oil market, and that it can be assumed that this will happen in the middle of next year.

In his opening speech to the fourth conference of the World Energy Studies Center, which he heads, Yamani said that Iraq's resumption of oil exports would put OPEC members under great pressure unless they work to offer it a suitable quota of the organization's output. He added that the oil price would in this case fall to $10 a barrel and remain at this level during 1996.

Yamani pointed out that the official U.S. position on Iraq's resuming its oil exports continues to make it conditional on Iraq's compliance with all UN resolutions concerning Iraq, but this position is not now as clear as it used to be.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Delivers Address to European Parliament

LD1304201794 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Government and PLO chairman, in Strasbourg on 13 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, members of the European parliament, sincere greetings. On this occasion, I would like to express my happiness at meeting you and at the opportunity you have given me to speak before you and address you.

From this platform, please allow me to convey to you greetings from our Palestinian people; on its behalf and on behalf of brother- members of the PLO Executive Committee, and on behalf of the Palestinian national authority, I would like to express my extreme thanks and gratitude for the continuous support and backing from your respected council for the just struggle of our people to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in our region and in Palestine, the land of peace, amity and tolerance.

Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, we are meeting you today, 13 April, when our first entitlement under the declaration of principles agreement should have been fulfilled with the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip and Jericho as laid down in this agreement, which received your support, the support of the whole international community, and all those who love freedom, justice, and peace in the world.

Eight months have passed since the signing of the agreement in the U.S. White House, and the Declaration of Principles agreement signed between us and the Israeli Government was supposed to be carried out and the Israeli withdrawal completed. I was supposed to come to you here from Jericho, and I believe that this was present in your minds when you sent us the invitation to address your venerable council. But the hopes we have all built since the signing of the agreement in Washington on 13 September 1993 have not materialized along what had been agreed upon as a result of Israeli procrastination and slowness when it comes to commitment and implementation. More still, in the course of this delay, our people were subjected to two large-scale massacres in al-Khalil and Gaza, which led to more than 90 martyrs and about 800 injured. All this was at the expense of peace.

I am saying to you truthfully and frankly: Were it not for our eagerness for and adherence to peace, to our pledges to our people and to the international community, the last massacres were enough to abort the peace process as a whole. Because the delay in carrying out what we agreed upon in the U.S. White House on 13 September 1993 has permitted all the extremist forces to engage in this frenzied and grave escalation. Just like what happened in 'Afula recently, perpetrated by Palestinian extremists, these acts regrettably were aimed at hitting Palestinian and Israeli innocent people as well as dealing a blow to the peace process.

Since the beginning of the peace process in Madrid in October 1991, we, on our side, have made all efforts that could facilitate and push forward the process. We have showed the required flexibility, the patience, and the commitment to the peace process out of our belief in and desire for a just peace that would put an end to long decades of bloody wars and conflicts in our region and provide all its peoples and states with security, stability, and peace.

Faced with the new dealing, with the peace content and its ensuing outcome, and to consolidate trust-building measures and cooperation, we have, since the signature of the Declaration of Principles agreements, set up a number of national bodies that would be able to play their role in building a free, civil, and democratic Palestinian society and establish foundations of peace and genuine cooperation among the peoples of the region.

Mr. President, please allow me to state here that we were expecting, and we were hoping, that the Israeli Government, which came to power on the strength of its declared elections program that was based on the establishment of peace, to take the necessary and the apprriate steps to rebuild the trust between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. We were expecting the Israeli Government to turn the page of the armed occupation by putting an end to everything that represented a humiliation to human achievements, international charters, treaties, and UN resolutions.

Mr. President, we were also hoping that the Israeli Government would have worked for the realization of peace, rather than just take measures that guarantee living in peace, because nobody can live in peace as long as peace has not been achieved in all sectors and at all levels.

However, the experience of the past eight months since the signing of the Declaration of The principles agreements in Washington was disappointing and discouraging. This is because the Israeli Government has continued its policy of mass killing; arrests; imposition of curfews; the siege on towns, especially the town of Jerusalem; the confiscation of land; the continuation of the economic embargo; and the support for and encouragement of settlers to continue committing the most horrible operations of killing and aggression against the lives, liberties, and property of the Palestinian people.

These actions made possible the perpetration of the vile massacre of Hebron in its holiest place, the most valued and secure of its temples, and the purest of its victims by armed Israeli settlers with the involvement of some units of the Israeli Army. That was similar to what was faced by our brothers in Algeria from the secret organization in the French Army in cooperation with French settlers.

Bloody incidents followed persistently, during which the Israeli Government punished the innocent sons of the Palestinian people by killing and detaining them, by curfew, and economic and trade siege. Furthermore, there were regrettable and rejected reactions by some Palestinian extremists against Israeli civilians, as was the case in Afula.

Mr. President, what took place in Hebron and before that in al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Gaza, Nablus, and other places was the result of the deliberate negligence and disgraceful collusion by some Israeli Army units with the extremist and racist settlers whose expatriation from their original country was facilitated by the Israeli Government, which also contributed toward training, arming, financing, and encouraging them to settle in Palestinian territory and in the center of Palestinian towns, until they became another army of occupation and armed groups that are not subject to any law or convention and protected by the guns of the occupation soldiers. These were demonstrated clearly by the results of the investigation carried out by the Israeli judicial authorities.

Mr. President, filled with feelings of responsibility, sorrow, and sadness, I warn that letting matters proceed as they have been since last September will lead us all to a disaster that will end whatever hope, trust, and credibility that is left among our Palestinian people, the Arab nation, and peace-loving people in the peace process itself, and in the ability, honesty, and seriousness of the international community in helping to achieve and implement it.

Mr. President, ladies, and gentlemen! On the basis of their understanding of the persistent pain and suffering of our people, the European countries have played a leading, effective, and prominent role in the international efforts to pass UN Security Council Resolution 904 in order to secure international protection for our people, continue the efforts to revitalize the peace process, and call for the implementation of the Declaration of Principles that was signed between the government of Israel and the PLO on 13 September 1993 at the White House in Washington.

On the basis of this and after the passing of the resolution, we turn to you and to the international community as a whole to do your utmost to bring about the implementation of the clauses of the resolution expeditiously, particularly with regards to securing and deployment of international protection for our Palestinian people in Hebron and throughout occupied Palestinian territories, the implementation of what was agreed in Cairo two weeks ago, and ensuring the success of this experiment by applying it in all the towns and villages of Palestine in order to ensure a solid start to the final stage and to prevent further killings during the transitional period. The translation of the clauses of the UN Security Council Resolution 904 into reality and swift progress in the implementation of the agreements signed with the Israeli Government will bring peace of mind to our people and strengthen their trust and feeling of security, which will make them continue to support the peace process in order to achieve the sought after just peace.

Mr. President, previously, and on many occasions at international and regional gatherings, and during successive visits I have paid to many European capitals we have talked and exchanged views about the urgent and necessary requirements to commence the building of the Palestinian national economy and the Palestinian national authority institutions, particularly since we will be starting from nothing in the process of building and construction of the infrastructure and vital installations. The enormity of the destruction and the problems experienced by our people as a result of long years of Israeli occupation makes it necessary to begin the building process expeditiously and puts great responsibilities on and challenges to the Palestinian national authority in making up for the destruction inflicted on the Palestinian economy and our people's social structure by that long and bitter occupation.

In order for the Palestinian national authority to be able to deal with these challenges successfully, it has to be given the opportunity to assume responsibility for receiving international aid and support, and to direct, invest, and exploit them in a way that will ensure changing the painful reality of our people, raising their living standard, and solving many accumulating economic, social, health, educational, and institutional problems.

What we aspire for and desire is to see this international support materialize in a collective and bilateral cooperation, which stems from relations existing between us. The development and backing for these relations will strongly enhance our ability of movement and activity to confront various problems that might hamper the operation of reconstruction and building in the way that we aspire and wish for.

It is no secret for you to realize that our people boasts human capabilities that have positively contributed toward the building of some of the best aspects of modern architecture in the Middle East. Our people will also continue their innovation and use of their capabilities through the edification of our civil and democratic society and our free economic and complete social institutions, which will form the basis for peace, future co-existence, and cooperation in the region.

Our people are able to undertake reconstruction and rebuilding on the best technical and legal conditions, openness, seriousness, and competence in the shadow of a parliamentary and democratic system based on freedom of expression, freedom to form parties, protection of minority rights, and the minority's respect for the majority's decisions. It is a system based on social justice; equality; non-discrimination regardless of sex, race, religion, or color; and on the foundation of a full pledge to Palestine's spiritual and civil heritage based on tolerance and co-existence between religions throughout the centuries.

We are talking to you in full frankness about our concerns, and as our exceptional relations have accustomed us, this will make you help us build the future and avert failure, which will have a negative impact on the whole peace process. This help will be through the provision of all methods of the required support.

Also, I am addressing you to ask you to make an urgent decision to provide appropriate financial help in the form of either a gift or loan, which should be put at the disposal of the Palestinian national authority to deal with the urgent needs of Palestinian life and to help meet the costs of establishing Palestinian authority, institutions, and commitments.

Europe has a fundamental role in achieving peace and consolidating its foundations in the region. It also has a role in supporting development in its widest meaning, either through governmental backing or through boosting of the private sector, on which we attach a great importance in all our projects and plans out of our faith and conviction in the role of the private sector and its capability to create jobs, transfer technology, stimulate the economy, and foster bilateral cooperation.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlmen. As you can see, we now live in a time when distances have been condensed thanks to a considerable technological and scientific revolution that is being witnessed by the last quarter of this century. This revolution is ushering us into the future and into all its challenges. Despite all the injustices, oppression, and sufferings that have befallen our people, it possesses enough capabilities, resources, and innovative abilities to enable it to face up to the challenges of the coming phase, in full self-confidence and using full participation, not only in building and developing society, but also in contributing towards the construction, progress, and the prosperity of the Middle East region and human civilization. This will strengthen and consolidate the foundations of security and peace in this important and sensitive region of the world.

It is everybody's duty to contribute to the making of this future that will guarantee for our generations security, stability, and a future. We aspire for your support and help to turn the page of the past with all its pains and tragedies, and open a new page of peaceful coexistence, understanding, cooperation, solving disagreements peacefully with dialogue and arbitration.

Mr. President, once again I am addressing you from this rostrum, you who represent Europe, to help us save the peace process and save our hopes. I am addressing you to help us preserve the peace process and to implement what we have agreed and (?signed) together with the Israeli Government in the form of the declaration of principles in Washington, and the annexes we have agreed upon in Oslo, Davos, Paris, and Cairo. These agreements have not been implemented so far, despite the passing of the defined and agreed schedules to implement them, which is a serious and fundamental matter not only for the Middle East, but for the whole world.

The peace of the brave is in need of your support and backing because we are currently going through a dangerous turning point where the process seems to be at a standstill, which is weakening the speedy implementation of it. Yes, we need your support, efforts, and endeavors to implement what we have agreed on paper and turn it into tangible facts on the ground, so that we do not give the opportunity to the extremists, whatever their identity, to destroy it or hamper its progress for the sake of our and their children, for the sake of a Middle East where peoples and nations live in brotherly and constructive peaceful coexistence away from the pains and effects of the past, for the sake of a new Middle East based on love, good, and rising hope, for the sake of a true peace in the land of peace, the sacred land of Palestine, the land of the three heavenly messages. No voice should rise higher than that of peace, no interest should overcome that of the peace, no effort should be spared to achieve peace.

We are all now shouldering a momentous historic responsibility. I pray to God Almighty to guide and help us, to give us wisdom and patience to shoulder this responsibility, and firmly establish peace, the peace of the brave. Once again, I would like to express my gratitude and thanks for giving me this nice opportunity to address you. Thank you.

Al-Tibi on Hadera Attack, Dialogue With Hamas

TA1304123794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0935 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Telephone interview with 'Arafat adviser Ahmad al-Tibi by Mikha Friedman; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Tibi] With your permission, I would like to address the Hadera event. Innocent people, blameless civilians riding a civilian bus were murdered on their way from 'Afula to Tel Aviv. Murder is murder, and I repudiate this in no uncertain terms. Even if I ignore everything that happened before, murder is murder. Yet we should all remember that both sides are paying with precious blood. What started with the Hebron massacre and continued in 'Afula and in Hadera and Jericho today should motivate us all to prevent murderers from both sides from achieving their one and only purpose—harming the peace process and the chance for compromise between the two nations. [passage omitted]

I see no option other than sitting down and completing the agreement as soon as possible, in order to reduce the level of violence and terror to a minimum.

As for condemnation, it must come from both sides. As I have condemned today's event, I expect to hear a condemnation of what happened in Jericho today; of the cold-blooded killing yesterday of a pregnant woman in al-Jib; of the appalling demolition of a house belonging to a senior PLO official in Ramallah, which was also intolerable, although no one was hurt. Appalling things happen on both sides, and they merit a second look even when they are carried out by the authorities.

[Friedman] Dr. al-Tibi, we ran a seemingly astonishing report this morning about an ongoing dialogue in Gaza between the moderate, peace-seeking Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which is usually seen as an enemy of peace. There is talk of cooperation when autonomy is implemented there. Can you confirm it?

[Al-Tibi] Local-level meetings have been held in Gaza between people from all elements. The purpose of these meetings was to avert conflicts and bloodshed among Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. No one expects the Palestinians to start killing each other, and therefore the statement issued today by one of the Hamas leaders, saying they will respect and defend the Palestinian police, is a step in the right direction. I welcome it.

[Friedman] Except that 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam is not a party to this dialogue.

[Al-Tibi] There are clear discrepancies between the stands of the Palestinian leadership, namely the PLO, and Hamas, on the political process. It is no secret that the PLO favors continuing the political process, while Hamas is opposed to it and is even fighting it.

[Friedman] Will the Palestinian police and the Palestinian security services relentlessly fight the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam peace opponents?

[Al-Tibi] Whenever I hear people call for a Palestinian civil war, I reject it categorically.

[Friedman] A relentless struggle is a determined fight against those who are out to kill you too, not just me.

[Al-Tibi] But the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian national authority will do all it can to maintain order and security in a democratic fashion in the framework of the Palestinian national rule in Gaza and Jericho.

[Friedman] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, thank you very much.

[Al-Tibi] Thank you.

Sha'th Expresses Anger Over Hadera Attack

TA1304160594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks, in Tunis, by Moshe Shlonsky, commander of IDF Radio in Tunis, "earlier today"—recorded in English]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Mr. Sha'th, what is your reaction to this morning's terror attack in Hadera?

[Sha'th] I have heard of this incident, and it makes me very sad and very angry to see civilians, innocent people get killed in Hadera, in 'Afula, in Hebron, or in Gaza. To me this is all needless bloodshed of innocent people that should be stopped immediately; by continuing the peace process, it can be stopped.

[Shlonsky] You know, the Israelis are waiting for an official condemnation by Chairman Yasir 'Arafat...

[Sha'th, interrupting] The chairman has just made a statement in Strasbourg that I believe has been communicated everywhere.

[Shlonsky] In which he is condemning the attack?

[Sha'th] Yes.

[Shlonsky] You know, the Israelis were very surprised after the Hebron...not surprised, but maybe disappointed, that after the Hebron attack the Palestinians withdrew from the talks. Do you expect the Israelis to do the same now or to continue it?

[Sha'th] I think we should continue this peace process, because I think we should not confuse the cause and effect—I mean the more we delay this peace process the more it will encourage the enemies of the peace process to continue doing things like this, whether in Hebron or in Hadera. And I see now more than ever that we need to finish as quickly as possible and implement our peace on the ground in order to swing the whole public opinion in the Palestinian areas, in the Palestinian occupied territories and in Israel to support the peace process.

[Shlonsky] You know, there is a feeling in Israel that you cannot control your people, or the Palestinians as a whole, to continue terrorist attacks [sentence as heard]. The peace process is continuing, and while the peace process is continuing these terrorist attacks are occurring here and there.

[Sha'th] Yes, this is very natural, because so long as we have absolutely no way to control these matters—our police force is still totally outside the territories, and our people also have occurrences such as the massacre in the Hebron mosque—there is no way to either control by police or to control by public support. We have a peace process, but this peace process has not been implemented on the ground and people have not seen any of its benefits, nor any of its police manifestations.

Further on Sha'th Comments

JN1304165194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1520 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place not given, on 13 April; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, good evening.

[Sha'th] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] What is your comment on the incident that took place in Hadera today?

[Sha'th] We can feel only pain and sorrow for the continuing innocent civilian victims in the ongoing conflict in which scores of the sons of our people in Hebron and Gaza have been killed, and the same holds for the victims from the sons of the Israeli people in 'Afula, and Hadera today. We always say we face these operations with anger and denunciation because they strike only innocent civilians on both sides. We say the only way to stop this violence on both sides is by quickly signing the peace agreement and really implementing it on the ground. This will create new conditions, end all violent acts from both sides, and abort all the attempts to torpedo the peace agreement. Our position on this subject is firm and unchanged. I pray for almighty God to help us reach a quick peace agreement that protects the sons of our people everywhere, and that protects Israeli civilians everywhere, in order to reach lasting and just peace.

[Mu'addi] Progress in the Palestinian-Israeli talks took place yesterday, and this incident took place today. Do such incidents influence the peace process?

[Sha'th] We can either bow to these incidents and allow them to obstruct the peace process, or we can expedite the peace process in order to stop these incidents. I believe the second option is better. We should create conditions on the ground that make it impossible for these operations to continue, or at least make them very difficult. I feel pain whenever an incident targets civilians. This was my feeling after the Hebron and Gaza incidents, and it was the same yesterday concerning the incident that took place in the al-Wahidi house in Ramallah. I have this feeling any time the sons of our people suffer as a result of the continuation of this situation. I have the same feelings toward the families of those who were killed in Hadera and 'Afula.

[Mu'addi] Did the Israelis and the Palestinians have contacts over the past few hours to prepare for the resumption of talks next Sunday?

[Sha'th] We have constant contacts. I think we will begin new talks next Sunday morning.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

Hamas Said Not Planning To Kill 'Arafat

JN1404074594 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 16-22 Apr 94 p 14

[Interview with Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, by Raja Talab in Amman "a few days ago"]

[Text] [Talab] Was the 'Afula operation a reply to the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque crime or part of a new strategy and method of struggle against the Israeli occupation?

[Nazzal] The 'Afula operation, carried out by the al-Qassam Battalions—the military wing of the Hamas Movement—was the first reply to the Hebron massacre. It will be followed by three more operations similar to the 'Afula operation in influence and power.

[Talab] Some Palestinian voices criticized the operation. They said the 'Afula operation, which targeted civilians, depicted matters as a racist conflict between Arabs and Israelis although the conflict is one of liberation and all forms of armed struggle should target the occupation army only. What is your comment?

[Nazzal] Forty days after the Hebron massacre, the Palestinian people realized that the international community will not take revenge for them. All that the Security Council did was to issue a inconsequential statement. Consequently, the Palestinian people in all their factions and classes were happy for this operation and considered it a restoration of honor and dignity. As for the Palestinians you mentioned, they are limited in number and isolated. They considered the operation an embarrassment and a pulling of the rug from under their feet.

[Talab] Will the next operations be similar to the 'Afula operation?

[Nazzal] The next operations are supposed to be highly qualitative to match the magnitude and ugliness of the Hebron massacre.

[Talab] You have a significant political presence in Jordan and Syria and these two countries are parties to the peace process. The 'Afula operation must have moved the United States, the sponsor of the peace process, to restrain you as a Hamas Movement. Have you been exposed to any pressure from Amman or Damascus, or to any questioning after this operation?

[Nazzal] The operation was received with great joy by the Arab and Islamic circles. It came within a context that is understood by the Arab and Islamic parties. It is regrettable that the PLO condemned the operation although no Arab party did so.

[Talab] Does this mean you did not come under any pressure or questioning because of the operation?

[Nazzal] No criticism whatsoever was leveled at us by the official Arab parties nor were there any pressures because of the 'Afula operation.

[Talab] Information says the PLO complained to Jordan about Hamas' strong political role in Jordan. Was this brought to your attention in order to reconsider your role?

[Nazzal] We have learned about this complaint from unofficial Jordanian sources, but nobody spoke to us about it. This, however, is indicative of the depth of the PLO leadership's impasse. Matters have gone so far in the PLO as to file complaints with the U.S. Administration to bring pressure to bear on Jordan. I believe there is a Jordanian understanding of the Hamas Movement's attitude toward the political settlement and the continuation of resistance against occupation.

[Talab] After the 'Afula operation, Israel went back to say that your movement is receiving financial support from Iran and that those who planned and implemented the operation received their training under Hizballah in southern Lebanon when they were in Marj al-Zuhur. Is this true?

[Nazzal] I think the Hamas Movement is able to develop its military and security capabilities without having to seek outside help. The Movement has an efficient military body that gains experience day by day. Hence, talk about Iranian or outside financial aid is not true.

[Talab] Where do you get your financing from then?

[Nazzal] I can say that Hamas finances itself and also receives financing from the people. So far we did not receive a single penny from any government.

[Talab] There are reports that the Hamas Movement is involved in plans to get rid of Yasir 'Arafat in order to abort the peace process. How true is this?

[Nazzal] Hamas does not believe in political assassination. It believes that its efforts should focus on resisting the occupation and its tools. What is being said about an inclination or plan to assassinate 'Arafat or other Palestinian figures is baseless.

[Talab] But how will you deal, after a short while, with the presence of 'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership in Gaza and Jericho and later on in the rest of the West Bank?

[Nazzal] Hamas' policy is not to clash with the Palestinian authority and its tools. This, in any case, does not mean stopping the resistance. Therefore, Hamas will continue its policy of resisting the occupation until it is removed.

[Talab] Do you have any information that 'Arafat agreed with the Israelis to get rid of the Hamas Movement?

[Nazzal] We have information about intelligence meetings between Palestinian and Israeli security bodies to coordinate on confronting Hamas and to exchange information on Hamas' leadership, cadres, and activities.

[Talab] How afraid are you of these meetings, especially during the next stage when 'Arafat returns and is in control of the West Bank and Gaza?

[Nazzal] There is no doubt that we view with caution cooperation between the Palestinian and occupation authorities aimed at confronting the Palestinian opposition. However, we, at the same time, believe that the Palestinian masses will side with whoever expresses their hopes and ambitions and represents their conscience. The masses will reject all those who are cooperating with the occupation and are standing in one trench with it. Hence, we are in line with the Palestinian masses in terms of continuing the resistance against the occupation.

[Talab] There is information that cadres from Fatah Hawks inside the occupied territories have turned to the Hamas Movement because the Fatah leadership in Tunis stopped financing these cadres, hence limiting their military moves against Israel. How true is this?

[Nazzal] There is no doubt that there is broad opposition within Fatah toward a political settlement. This opposition is increasing and includes various sectors. Hamas has links and channels of communication with those honorable and sincere sectors from Fatah, some of whom have been absorbed into Hamas ranks, especially from the military elements and cadres. Perhaps this could enrich Hamas' experience, especially since experienced Fatah cadres have joined the movement.

[Talab] It seems that the expertise of the Fatah cadres who joined Hamas made itself felt in the 'Afula operation?

[Nazzal] No doubt any cadres with past experience who join Hamas will provide a qualitative addition to the movement's experience and we believe that any cooperation between Hamas and the Fatah cadres will constitute a real threat to the occupation and its tools.

[Talab] Do you have channels of communication with the Fatah leadership abroad as you have with Fatah at home? Have these connections created coordination between you and them?

[Nazzal] Official contacts with the Fatah leadership abroad has been frozen since the Oslo agreement. We have individual contacts with certain Fatah opposition figures but these are personal contacts.

[Talab] Are you considering promoting these contacts with Fatah opposition figures to have a practical effect in foiling the peace process?

[Nazzal] We welcome any contacts and coordination with the Fatah opposition figures and cadres provided this coordination and cooperation is intended to confront the occupation.

[Talab] But are they also prepared?

[Nazzal] There are certain Fatah cadres who coordinate and cooperate with the Hamas Movement.

[Talab] Is there any practical coordination on the leadership level?

[Nazzal] There is none.

[Talab] You opposed Mustafa al-Natshah's appointment as mayor of Hebron and demanded municipal elections. How do you support a municipal election that is not rejected by the occupation while at the same time you oppose participation in electing a Palestinian authority if these elections are not rejected by the occupation?

[Nazzal] We have always supported and still support municipal elections that are not connected with any political plan because municipal elections are the means by which services can be extended to the Palestinian public, alleviating their suffering and improving their health and social conditions. Therefore, we call for municipal elections in every Palestinian town. This happened in 1976 and those elections were not connected with any political plans at a time when all the Palestinian forces were opposed to recognizing the Israeli enemy and had a stand that was similar to the current Hamas position. Therefore, we do not find it embarrassing to accept elections provided they are not linked with a political plan.

[Talab] In a statement to the press, Israeli military intelligence chief Uri Sagi [name as published] said that Hamas will participate in electing a Palestinian authority under a non-Hamas platform because he believed that the pragmatic trend within Hamas in the occupied territory will exercise pressure in this direction. How do you comment on this?

[Nazzal] Hamas' initial decision was not to participate in the autonomy elections. This decision was based on Hamas rejection of the Gaza-Jericho agreement and its consequences in terms of measures and results. Therefore, the talk on Hamas' participation is by way of exploration, feeling the pulse, and drawing conclusions. It is not based on genuine information.

[Talab] Is this your final stand on elections?

[Nazzal] I am speaking about this situation at this stage. Nobody is able to talk of the future. Everything is subject to study and reconsideration.

[Talab] I understand, then, that you are not closing the door completely to the question of dealing with the elections?

[Nazzal] The door is open to all possibilities.

[In a box on page 14, SHIHAN publishes the following "stop press" item: "Muhammad Nazzal has told SHIHAN that the bus operation was the work of the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam battalions in retaliation against the Hebron massacre, and that Hamas will carry out three more operations in retaliation for the grotesque massacre at Hebron's al-Ibrahimi Mosque.

"Nazzal emphasized that the option of armed action against the occupation will continue until the occupation has ended.

"It may be mentioned that the above interview with Muhammad Nazzal was held some days ago."]

Hamas Communique Cited; Ghawshah Interview Seen

NC1404100294 Paris AFP in English 0917 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, April 14 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) threatened Thursday [14 April] to carry out three more "surprise" attacks on Israeli targets following the killing of 12 Israelis in two bus bombings.

"There are three more attacks to come," Hamas said in a communique sent to AFP in Gaza City.

On April 7, a suicide bomber blew up a bus at 'Afula killing seven Israelis and wounding 45 in the first attack to avenge the mosque massacre of 30 Muslims by a Jewish settler in Hebron on February 25.

Hamas said it was proud to claim responsibility in the name of its armed branch 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam for Wednesday's attack at Hadera that left five dead apart from the bomber and 30 wounded.

"The enemy prime minister (Yitzhaq) Rabin and his chief-of-staff Ehud Baraq can expect three more surprises to make them control the settlers," Hamas announced.

"The Hadera attack is another victory for 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam's intelligence and security network," it boasted. "Our hero got through all of Israel's security checks."

Israel "totally" sealed off the occupied territories after the 'Afula bombing in a bid to halt more killings and announced that security had been stepped up for Wednesday's memorial day for fallen soldiers and independence day on Thursday.

Hamas warned Arabs living in Israel to keep away from public places where Jews gathered. "We advise them not to get on Israeli buses."

The communique also criticized PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat for voicing regret at the murders. " 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam swears by God and the gun to defend our national rights."

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 0904 GMT on 14 April adds the following: "The young Hamas militant who died carrying out the Hadera bus bombing had been arrested several times for clashes with Israeli troops, residents of his home village said Thursday.

["They named the bomber as 22-year-old 'Amr Salih 'Amarnah and said he was from the occupied West Bank village of Ya'bad, east of Hadera where a bomb on a bus Wednesday killed five Israelis and wounded 30.

["Israeli troops had arrested 'Amarnah several times, villagers told AFP.

["Police said the assailant in the Hadera bombing, which coincided with Israel's memorial day for its soldiers who have fallen in battle, came from the West Bank but did not name him.

["They said he had also placed a second bomb in the Hadera central bus station, timed to explode 90 minutes after the first blast and at a time when Israelis observed a minute of silence for their fallen soldiers.

["Explosives experts blew up the second bomb."]

[In another related report, Paris AFP in English at 0915 GMT on 14 April adds the following: "Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah, in an interview published Thursday, said the group was ready to halt deadly attacks on civilians inside the Jewish state if Israelis stopped 'killing our children.'

["'The principle of reciprocity is the same everywhere,' he told the London-based Arabic newspaper AL-HAYAH.

["'When Rabin stops killing our children and our women, Hamas will stop attacking civilians and it will target only troops and settlers,' the spokesman said.

["'The shabab (youths) of the intifadah will do miracles and will prove that the Israeli army is a paper tiger,' Ghawshah warned.

["He also blasted 'Arafat for expressing regrets. 'The blood of Palestinian children and women is not cheaper than the blood of Israeli civilians,' he said."]

'Arafat's Envoy Visits Damascus 'To Ease Tension'

JN1304141494 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 12-13 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Amman-AKHIR KHABAR—Instructed by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Amr left for Damascus for talks with Syrian officials following the increase in tension between Damascus and the PLO.

Sources close to the PLO said 'Amr's mission is to try to ease tension and stop the media campaigns Damascus is launching against the PLO leadership as a result of the signing of the Oslo and Cairo agreements, which Damascus views as deviation from unified Arab position in the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

The sources said 'Amr will brief Damascus about what is going on in Cairo, and will discuss the cordon states meeting and the possibility for the PLO to participate in it.

'Amr was a member of the Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party during the 1960's and 1970's, and he was a former member of the party's Regional Command.

The visit is taking place at a time when the PLO leadership is facing a real crisis as a result of Israeli procrastination and blackmailing in Cairo talks.

Algeria

Bouira Province Governor Escapes Assassination Attempt

LD1304123694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Brahim Ben Gayou, governor of the Province of Bouira, has had a narrow escape from an assassination attempt. The security services said that he had a narrow escape from an assassination attempt committed this morning by unknown individuals near his home when he was preparing himself to leave for work accompanied by his driver. The same services added that the governor was slightly injured while his driver suffered various injuries after which he was taken to Bouira hospital to have preliminary treatment before the evacuation of the two of them to Ain Naaja military hospital in Algiers.

Arab Fund Lends 6 Million Kuwaiti Dinars for Dam Project

LD1304134594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Algeria today obtained a 6 million Kuwaiti dinar loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, a contribution to the financing of the Beni Haroun dam [40 km northwest of Constantine]. The project aims at a better exploitation of the available quantities of water so as to provide for drinking water, generate electricity, and promote agricultural production. [passage omitted]

Bank Governor Assesses IMF Agreement

LD1304141894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Four days following the Council of Ministers' approval of the letter of intent which the government had sent to the IMF and after the explanations given by Economics Minister Benachnou in many press statements about the effects of the agreement on the Algerian economy as a whole, Abdelouahab Keramane, governor of the Algerian Bank, who accompanied the economic minister to the talks with the IMF, assesses the results of these talks with this financial institution by saying that Algeria reached an agreement which is least difficult for the Algerian Bank.

IMF support for Algeria is important, Keramane said, and the IMF's one billion dollar contribution is considered very important in connection with the one-year program which is aimed at enabling economic stability for Algeria. Here is Ahmed Khider with details.

[Khider] Abdelouahab Keramane's answers revolved round the financial side and its unfolding. They came following the explanations given recently by the economic minister about the effects of the agreement on the Algerian national economy as a whole.

Mr. Abdelouahab Keramane, who addressed public opinion for the first time in his capacity as the governor of the Algerian Bank through APS, summarized his assessment of the agreement with the IMF by saying that Algeria reached an agreement which is the least harmful and difficult for the Algerian Bank.

The governor of the Algerian Bank consolidated his positive assessment of the agreement by putting forward a number of points which he presented as advantages in view of the conditions under which the talks with the IMF unfolded. These points include:

—First: social difficulties impose the search for a gradual transitional phase and the avoidance of what is commonly called the shock treatment.
—The level of the dinar devaluation is reasonable, necessary, and sufficient.
—The percentages of indebtedness to banks will be continuous proportionally [as heard].
—It is expected that the level of loans for the economy would not increase that much, however, the level of the debt rates will [as heard].
—No other sudden measures are expected and it is possible to review the interest rates with a view to reducing them should the situation allow it.
—The devaluation of the dinar should not lead to a big rise in prices. Controlling inflation is the most important way of protecting the families' purchasing power.
—It will be easier for the production sector to import means of production.
—Measures will be taken for liberalizing foreign trade.
—The program for economic stability will enable Algeria to reach the Dinar convertibility.
—The problem of losses in the change was taken into account by the authorities during the talks with IMF. [passage omitted]

Keramane also stressed that the financial support of the IMF is a fundamental support for the Algerian balance of payments, and it is a hint from the IMF to the international community and also to the world banking and monetary systems.

Opposition Figure Appeals for Dialogue

LD1304222494 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Veteran Algerian opposition figure Hocine Ait Ahmed held a news conference in Paris this afternoon. Ait Ahmed is president of the Front of Socialist Forces, a very influential party in the region of Kabylia. Mr. Ait Ahmed appealed for dialogue. Farida Ayari asked him why he is making such an appeal:

[Begin recording] [Ahmed] Because civil war is the worst thing that can happen to our country. I refuse this possibility because a civil war is an insult to intelligence and to reason.

[Ayari] One is tempted to ask why dialogue, since the only two real forces in Algeria today are the army and the

Islamists. If those two talk, might one not end up with an alliance between the army and the Islamists, as has happened in Iran or in Sudan?

[Ahmed] You speak of dialogue between two protagonists. This is the very problem. You still know nothing about Algeria, unknown Algeria, with its population which refuses to side either with the authorities or with the Islamists, and which just suffers. We do not have one section of the Algerian people taking up arms against another section. This is why I say that there is not a civil war. So dialogue yes, between the protagonists, but especially between the representatives of the most representative political parties. [end recording]

ALGER REPUBLICAIN, L'INDEPENDENT End Publication

LD1304202994 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] The publication of two newspapers was stopped today. ALGER REPUBLICAIN stopped publishing after El Moudjahid printing enterprise refused to issue the daily until it paid its debts.

The daily L'INDEPENDANT, which is published in French, was stopped by an order. This was in a statement by the Ministry of Communications that said some of the articles published in the daily were harmful to public order and the country's higher interests.

Army's Role in Premier's Resignation Viewed

BR1304143594 Paris LE MONDE in French 13 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed editorial: "Call To Order in Algiers"]

[Text] The resignation of the government of Redha Malek, who was succeeded on Monday, 11 April, by Mokdad Sifi, former minister of equipment, above all served as a warning. When thanking Mr. Malek, who had become a little too talkative for their liking, President Liamine Zeroual, and through him the Army commanders, sent out a very clear message, namely, that it is they, and not the civilian leaders, who are responsible for managing the crisis. It is they, and not the "politicians," even if they are the actual government leaders, who will decide what attitude to adopt vis-a-vis Islamist groups.

This change does not necessarily imply that an ideological turning point has been reached. The departure of Redha Malek is totally in keeping with the (khaki-colored) "cleansing" precedents at the top. His predecessor, Belaid Abdesalam, who was held in contempt by the French-speaking elite, which had described him as a "secular assimilationist," was not merely a victim of his political opinions. In the eyes of the military, his main failing was that he had not managed to succeed in regaining the confidence of leaders in Western capitals, whose financial support has become crucial for the country.

Paradoxically, it is quite for the opposite reasons that Redha Malek, a career diplomat who prided himself on being on a particularly good footing with the United States, was cruelly forced to resign. His resignation came two days after Algiers had sent a "letter of intent" to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a prelude to the signature of an agreement opening up the way for new loans and the rescheduling of Algeria's foreign debt.

In other words, Mr. Malek's mission had virtually been fulfilled. The military commanders, who were anxious that their "protege" should not become too important in the political arena, preferred to retire him early. On Sunday, the press was raising the prospect of an imminent ministerial reshuffle. Fueled by rumors, political circles had, for several days, already imagined that the prime minister might be on his way out.

The last week's dispute opposing the former prime minister and the secretary general of the Assembly for Culture and Democracy (RCD), Said Sadi, was not enough to save Mr. Malek. Distancing himself, somewhat belatedly, from the modernist camp, he did not succeed in convincing the authorities of his neutrality and his loyalty to the army. The fact that he recently described the Islamist groups as "barbarians," "traitors," and "anti-nationalists" irreversibly classed him among the so-called "eradicators" who are hostile to a dialogue with the heirs of the former Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). By adopting this position, he could not but embarrass the military hierarchy, which is more determined than ever to save the appearances of unity and cohesion.

Security Services Disband 'Terrorist Network'

LD1304211494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] A statement by the security services today said that on the basis of information, a terrorist network involved in an attempt to sabotage El Hadjar [steel] complex has been disbanded. The information led to the siege of a bakery in Guemar, the province of El Oued, the killing of four terrorists, the arrest of another six, and the seizure of a quantity of arms.

Investigations led to the arrest of 29 people in (Oued Souf) and 14 in Annaba, and the killing of 14 terrorists in a hideout in (Oued El Annab) and two terrorists in (Djebel Gamgam) in the province of Tebessa, where five gendarmes were killed in an exchange of fire. This terrorist network was composed of people from Guemar and Oued Souf. Some of them were lying in wait at El Hadjar complex and had started to execute a plan to assassinate members of the security and sabotagie El Hadjar complex. This group was active under the leadership of the so-called (Basi Taher) who is a baker in the Guemar municipality.

Egypt

Mubarak-Yeltsin Summit Scheduled for May

PM1304135894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "First Egyptian-Russian Summit in Five Years"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Cairo will in May witness the first Egyptian-Russian summit meeting in over five years. Russian President Boris Yeltsin will visit Egypt during a tour of the Middle East which will take him also to Syria, Jordan, and Israel.

Reliable political sources in Cairo have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the peace process in the Middle East will be high on the agenda of the first summit meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Russian President Yeltsin. A round of talks confined to the two leaders will be held before the two delegations join the talks. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will participate in the talks.

The sources confirmed that the Egyptian-Russian talks will discuss in their political and economic aspects ways of reinforcing bilateral relations in the various spheres and the two countries' contribution to advancing the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, in addition to reviewing two countries' efforts in this connection.

The discussions will also include the possibility of settling some of the outstanding issues with regard to payment methods in the economic and trade exchange and agreeing on the preparation of a new trade exchange protocol guaranteeing an increase in the volume of trade exchange between them on the basis of new terms by closing the file concerning the settlement of payments related to the former Soviet Union.

The sources pointed out that Yeltsin's Middle East tour reflects a Russian desire to regain the active role to achieve a peace based on justice and accentuate Russia's commitment to the need to guarantee the legitimate Arab rights to territory and peace.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from political sources that Yeltsin and his foreign minister are expected to discuss with leaders of the states they are going to visit a number of Russian proposals and initiatives that will reflect positively on the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. And that the Russian talks in Israel will deal primarily with settling the Arab-Israeli conflict in a comprehensive manner that is fair to all parties.

Paper: 'Astonishment' Over U.S. Stand on Israeli Weapons

NC1404071294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has voiced astonishment at the U.S. Administration overlooking Israel's nuclear capability. It asserts that this oversight is not the result of ignorance, because the Israeli nuclear enterprise is known to all intelligence services.

In an editorial today, AL-AKHBAR refers to remarks made by U.S. sources that Israel will acquire 45 F-15E combat aircraft. It points out that this is the first time the United States has agreed to sell this sophisticated type of aircraft and says that these planes will enable the Israeli air force to carry out strikes against Libya, Iraq, and Iran.

AL-AKHBAR remarks that this raises questions about the U.S. position on Israel and causes much astonishment.

The paper asserts that the U.S. attitude to nuclear weapon proliferation is contradictory; while it pressures North Korea to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection, going as far as to threaten air strikes against it, it disregards any discussion of Israel's nuclear weapons, long deployed in the Negev.

AL-AKHBAR denounces the Israeli Government's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in clear defiance of the international community. The paper says the Israeli intelligence services occasionally leak reports about the country's nuclear weapons so as to frighten Arab countries near and far.

Musa Says NATO Strike on Serbs 'Appropriate,' 'Late'

NC1304185594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the NATO strike against Serbian positions was an appropriate measure, although it was late. He added that it is necessary to halt the Serbian aggression by all possible means. The foreign minister was commenting on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Regarding the protests against the strike, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that such protests are incomprehensible. It would have been better to protest the aggression, not the reaction to the aggression, he added.

Commenting on the situation in Rwanda, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that he telephoned OAU Secretary General Salem Ahmad Salem today to discuss the matter. He noted that Salem asked to inform President Mubarak, the current OAU chairman, of the situation prior to the meeting of the mechanism for settling African disputes in Addis Ababa at the ambassadors' level tomorrow. He added that the OAU secretary general will be informed of President Mubarak's position and instructions.

Musa pointed out that the Foreign Ministry is in touch with the embassy in Rwanda, adding that it will be closed if things get worse. He added that for the moment no instructions have been given to close the embassy down so that the situation can be viewed from there, since Egypt currently chairs the OAU.

Turning to Yemen, the foreign minister said that the situation there remains the same and that efforts are continuing on the matter. He added that he met with some Yemeni brothers in Cairo to follow up on the situation, noting that an Egyptian envoy is expected to travel to Yemen soon to try to calm things down and assure the safety of the Yemeni people.

Interior Minister Details 'Terrorist' Scheme

NC1304145594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has announced that the security agencies recently frustrated an extensive terrorist scheme involving 30 criminals led by two dangerous leaders. One of the leaders, 'Adil 'Awad Siyam, was killed and his brother-in-law, Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Alim Khalifah, was arrested.

During an international press conference today, al-Alfi disclosed the schemes of that organization, which sought to terrorize the safe citizens and destabilize the country with the ultimate goal of striking at economic development in Egypt.

The minister said that the security agencies seized an enormous amount of explosives, weapons, and ammunition in the hideout of these terrorists. Al-Alfi noted that nine hideouts of the terrorist group, which represents the military wing of the al-Jihad Organization, were stormed in several governorates at the same time and a large quantity of weapons and explosives were found. The operations were carried out in the presence of representatives from the Higher State Security Prosecution Office, experts from the criminal laboratory, and explosive experts. The three defendants, whose hiding places were stormed, were found in possession of 17,000 dollars, 3,000 pounds sterling, and 9,000 Egyptian pounds, he added. A number of firearms were also seized, including two automatic rifles, an Israeli-made Uzi submachine gun, six pistols, 17 magazines of automatic weapons, various types of pistols, 582 nine-mm bullets, three RPG projectiles, three silencers, and a large quantity of firing pins, he added.

The interior minister added that searches conducted in the nine dens led to the seizure of 335 bombs of various types, explosives, quantities off sulphuric and nitric acids, ammonium nitrate, mercury, chlorine, and ammonium chloride. Approximately 150 kg of gelignite powder and another 150 kg of (?nitrate) powder, a highly explosive material, also were found in the terrorists' hideouts, in addition to a tricycle used as a trap, three wireless devices, a cordless telephone, and magnets used to attach explosives under vehicles.

The interior minister said that the security services seized organizational papers and documents containing information about the security of the installations and people and the method of producing explosives and preparing deceptive traps. The security services also seized a list of names of targeted figures, various organizational plans, the code used by the organization, and receipts for the transfer of foreign currency from abroad.

The interior minister explained that the security forces discovered in the possession of the captured terrorists a quantity of forged official papers, including military conscription cards, birth certificates, marriage certificates, passports, and identity cards as well as a large quantity of police and military uniforms and officers' ranks.

The interior minister noted that the security services also seized various types of vehicles belonging to the organization, including vehicles used in operations that members of the organization have admitted they carried out.

The interior minister said that the security services found a Yemeni passport belonging to the first accused, 'Adil 'Awad Siyam, commander of the organization's military wing, who was killed in the al-Munib area in al-Jizah in the past few days.

During the international news conference, which was attended by more than 100 correspondents from Egyptian and Arab newspapers and Arab and foreign news agencies, the interior minister noted that because of the detective work carried out by various security services following the assassination of Sayyid Ahmad Abu-Yahya, the first witness in the case of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, and the wounding of his friends who were with him during the attack, the State Security Investigations Department was able to uncover an extremely dangerous terrorist group commanded by 'Adil 'Awad Ahmad Mahmud Siyam, commander of the military wing of the al-Jihad Organization in Egypt, who is considered one of the most dangerous terrorists to be found in recent years.

The interior minister said that members of the State Security Investigations Department also monitored the movements of the second terrorist commander, Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Alim Muhammad Khalifah, brother-in-law of terrorist 'Adil.

The interior minister added that the organization was made up of a large number of terrorists who were given sophisticated training, with the knowledge of the two mentioned commanders, in the arts of combat, marksmanship, and the manufacture of various types of explosives. He noted that the investigation confirmed that terrorist 'Adil 'Awad Siyam assumed responsibility for this terrorist organization after his return to the country at the instructions of the central command of the terrorist al-Jihad organization abroad and after receiving advanced military training on the use of all types of weapons and the preparation, manufacture, and use of bombs and explosives.

The interior minister added: In light of the investigations made by the State Security Investigations Department and after taking all legal measures, the movements of the organization were monitored on tape and by sound and accurate observations were intensified until the aforementioned terrorist was confirmed to be the link between the terrorist organization's elements in the country and its leaders abroad.

He added that the investigations also confirmed that terrorist leader 'Adil 'Awad Siyam was in control and had such great influence on his group that he was convinced of the need to commit suicide when arrested to maintain the secrecy of the organization and its membership.

He said that the investigations confirmed that this organization's members were experienced in criminal acts, high-risk operations, and vehicle theft and were using aliases and a secret code in their contacts and movements. He added that these terrorists used the slums and remote areas as centers for their activities, depots for their weapons and ammunitions, and lairs for hiding. Investigations also showed that the organization included a large number of cadres that were well prepared and that 30 of these terrorist organization's cadres were monitored.

The interior minister then said: After asking for permission from the Higher State Prosecution Office and taking the necessary legal measures, antiterrorist units that are highly trained to combat terrorism and to undertake this type of confrontation were prepared and sent on time to arrest the organization's members and raid its lairs, which had been accurately monitored beforehand.

He added that security action resulted in the death of the dangerous terrorist 'Adil 'Awad Siyam immediately after he opened fire on the forces that chased him. He was in a Fiat 128 car with false license plates. The security forces opened fire and killed him.

Another leading terrorist who was with him, Muhammad 'Abd-al- 'Alim Khalifah, was arrested. A quantity of uniforms similar to those used by the Armed Forces and the police were found in the car together with a pair of field glasses, a forged identity card, and 4,260 pounds.

The interior minister said that the State Security Investigations Department arrested 30 members of the terrorist organization. He added that their names have not been made public because the investigation and their confessions indicate that other members are being chased and arrested.

He said that the names of the other members of the terrorist organization will be announced in a detailed statement that the ministry will issue after the operations are completed.

He added that the defendants gave detailed confessions on the terrorist operations they had carried out in the past, the most important of which was the assassination of citizen Ahmad Abu-Yahya on 4 February 1994, who was the primary witness in the failed attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. He said that the weapons used in that incident have been seized and noted that the results of the criminal laboratory's examinations confirmed the defendants' confessions. The vehicles used in that incident also were seized. He said that this organization also carried out the attempt to assassinate Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi on 18 August 1993, which resulted in the death of terrorists Nazih Nushi Rashid and Diya'-al-Din Dawud. The defendants also confessed that they detonated the explosive device in the Shabab al-Jazirah Club on 13 July 1993, which targeted some of the state security officers who were at the club for physical training.

Minister Musa noted that the defendants made detailed confessions on the assassination of 'Adil Anwar al-Sayyid, a dissident organization member, in front of his home in the Saray al-Qubbah area in Cairo on 3 July last year. In their confessions, the defendants stated that they had monitored and reconnoitered a number of public, political, executive, media, judicial, and military figures intending to assassinate them and thus create a media uproar meant to tarnish Egypt's reputation in the foreign media and shake the people's sense of security and stability.

The interior minister added that for that purpose the organization members took all the necessary steps to blow up booby-trapped cars by remote control to cause the maximum degree of demolition during the execution of these operations. All defendants have been referred to the Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office to proceed with the investigations, he added.

The minister described the uncovering of this major terrorist organization as one of the most successful security operations conducted by security men in their confrontation with the cowardly acts of terrorism carried out by a band of hired hands who seek to disrupt security and stability; harm innocent people such as the elderly, women, and children; and undermine the successful economic reforms.

The interior minister stressed that the security men have the initiative in their confrontation with the forces of evil and darkness. He added that these forces have deviated from their religion and have pursued ways offensive to the noble Islamic religion either to gain false leadership or to earn a few dollars by the implementation of a tightly planned scheme that primarily seeks to harm Islam and the Muslims.

He noted that the security agencies bear the brunt of confronting this malicious campaign launched by the modern day khawarij [members of a dissident Islamic sect that appeared in the 7th century]. He noted that the security strategy depends on broadening the circle of confrontation with all terrorist elements to frustrate their schemes, uproot them, and eliminate all the forces that stand behind them.

Reviewing the recent security measures, the interior minister noted that since the beginning of the year 20 major terrorist operations have been aborted. These operations include a series of planned explosions and assassinations of public figures that would have harmed innocent people, he added. During the same period, he added, 43 terrorists were arrested and a number of others were killed during exchanges of fire with security men; this was out of a total number of 52 terrorists wanted in connection with these cases.

He emphasized that the security agencies are capable of achieving the security and stability we all wish for, adding that the security forces are the shield of the people that safeguards the country with courage and boldness. He praised the close cooperation among the security agencies, the media, and the honest and courageous citizens who have supplied the security agencies with information out of their sense of loyalty. Thanks to this information, he added, this deviant band and their hideouts have been attacked.

Responding to a question on whether the security services have obtained new information on the assassination of Major General Ra'uf Khayrat last Saturday night and whether those services have been penetrated, the interior minister said that the incident is still under investigation and action is being taken to identify the culprits. He stressed that when an incident takes places it does not mean that the security services have been penetrated but, on the contrary, it is the security services that have penetrated these fugitive terrorist groups and this has helped abort dozens of attempts.

Replying to another question about the campaign and whether there is coordination between all the services in confronting terrorism, Hasan al-Alfi stressed that there is full coordination between all the services, especially between the security services and the media.

Regarding the sources of these weapons and how the terrorists are getting them, the interior minister said that many of these weapons are surplus from former wars and others are being brought in across the borders. He stressed that there are strict measures to control the borders.

In reply to a question on the success achieved by the state's security services and whether a period of calm is expected, the interior minister said that all things are possible. He noted that the confrontation of every terrorist group with this ferocity and vast financial resources and the security forces' vigilance and readiness to make sacrifices for the sake of Egypt's security and stability are bound to achieve positive results.

On whether there is a link between the terrorist al-Jihad organization and the terrorist Vanguards of Conquest organization or whether the al-Jihad has more than one group, the interior minister stressed that the Vanguards of Conquest is one of al-Jihad's military groups. He noted that the Vanguards of Conquest is a branch of the terrorist al-Jihad organization.

Regarding the leaders who have fled abroad, the interior minister stressed that there are intensive efforts and constant contacts at all levels to apprehend these leaders. But he refused to divulge the names of these countries or persons because progress has been made in this matter. He said: It is in the public interest not to mention any details about them until the time is right.

In reply to the correspondents' questions, he explained that the terrorists began as a small group and then split into other groups. He noted that they have a single objective and took Islam as a cover, but that they are not Muslims.

Responding to a question on whether there is a link between the Muslim Brotherhood and these extremist terrorist groups, the interior minister stressed that the Muslim Brotherhood is a propagator of religion only but that the terrorist groups are advocates of violence and assassinations.

In response to a question on the possibility of a dialogue with these terrorist groups, the interior minister categorically denied that there is [words indistinct] and stressed that there is no dialogue with these terrorist groups. He asked: Dialogue with whom? A dialogue with killers and butchers? Does a state conduct a dialogue with killers and criminals? There is not a single country in the world that conducts a dialogue with killers and criminals who order the killing of innocent people with firearms and explosives.

On another question about reports that the extremist groups are digging a tunnel under Salim Salih Street to be used for explosives to ambush and assassinate important figures, the interior minister said these reports are "irresponsible." He said that the Public Prosecution Office is investigating these reports and that everything will be announced when the investigation is completed.

On the security services' success in eliminating 82 percent of the terrorists and whether the rest have a major role in terrorist operations, Minister al-Alfi stressed that the remaining minority is behind these terrorist actions and the sabotage.

Commentary Assesses Israeli Postponement of Accord

NC1404080494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "Don't Close Every Door to the Palestinian People"]

[Text] Today is 13 April, the date to which Israel committed itself, saying it would implement the Declaration of Principles Agreement with the Palestinians regarding withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho in preparation for the establishment of self-rule in this area and as a confirmation of its true desire to establish genuine peace with the Palestinians, in particular, and the Arab states in general. Despite Israel's commitment to this date, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated that things had been postponed until the end of this month. Before news agencies could confirm the date, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made a statement in which he declared that the agreement on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles might be signed in the middle of next month.

A sense of despair is increasing among the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territory, especially following a new decision by the Israeli Government to import foreign workers to replace the Palestinian workers employed by some Israeli companies in the occupied Palestinian territory. This decision has dangerous implications for the Palestinian people as it affects their livelihood and their right to maintain a decent life in the land on which they were born and raised. It might push the Palestinian people in the occupied territory into extreme despair, the result of which no one can calculate. When life and death become equal, the resulting reaction could be difficult to predict or calculate. Perhaps what happened in 'Afula and that led to regression in the peace process proves the truth of what we say. Credibility in abiding by the articles agreed upon and the dates set to implement what is concluded between the two negotiating parties is essential—if there are indeed sincere intentions to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli differences.

The Palestinians in the Cairo negotiations have agreed to postpone the implementation until the end of this month, according to the Israeli foreign minister's statement. This is because the PLO doesn't want to miss any chance for the Palestinian people to secure their rights and emphasize the Palestinian desire to establish permanent and viable peace with Israel and solve the Middle East conflict according to the principle of land for peace, which was endorsed by the international community in Madrid.

Israel's continuing attempts to postpone the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement places Israel in a position that we think is not in its favor. The PLO has offered everything that could advance the peace negotiations and achieve permanent peace in the Middle East and all the Arab capitals have expressed their support and backing for every step to achieve an agreement that will restore security and peace to the Middle East, providing this is done on a just basis.

Minister Denies Reports of Investment in U.S. Bonds

NC1404074894 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Apr 94 p 11

[Text] Economy Minister Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud has denied recent reports that the Egyptian Central Bank has invested $80 billion in U.S. shares and bonds.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Criticizes Garang's Visit to Israel

EA1304192594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has stressed that rebel John Garang's recent visit to Israel was made after the failure of the self-determination proposal put forward by the rebel movement and its failure to internationalize the problem of the south. This was also accompanied by the routing of its forces.

Speaking today during his meeting with media leaders at the secretariat general of the Council of Ministers building, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said it had been confirmed that Israel and the Zionist lobby were promoting an anti-Sudan media campaign in the West and that Israel was using Garang as one of its tools with which to fight the Sudanese Government. The president of the Republic referred to the symposium organized by a number of well-known leftist movements in Cairo to be held on 14 May which is just two days before the resumption of negotiations between the Sudanese Government and the rebel movement in Nairobi. He said the organizers of this symposium had invited John Garang and Riak Machar to attend.

During his meeting, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stressed that the Western world was trying to stir up discord in Africa, referring in this context to the Israeli enemy's aim to gain control of the sources of the Nile in the African continent with their water resources, in order to put pressure on the main forces in the region. The president of the Republic stressed the need for the Africans to take the initiative to solve disputes within the continent so as to preserve its security and stability.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir declared that the rebel movement's refusal to sign the relief agreement with the government revealed that the movement secretly intended to obstruct relief efforts in order to prepare the way for foreign intervention in Sudan. His excellency reiterated the Sudanese Government's determination to ensure that relief operations were successful.

GCC Chiefs of Staff Discuss Peninsula Shield, Radar Links

PM1304143694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Apr 94 p 4

[Report by Toaj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq: "Gulf States Discuss Developing Peninsula Shield and Early Warning Network"]

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi—Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] chiefs of staff held a closed meeting in Dubayy yesterday. It focused on ways of developing and enlarging the Peninsula Shield Force and linking radar networks in the member states in the form of an early warning network. The meeting of the GCC chiefs of staff is considered the first practical step toward implementing a number of recommendations the GCC defense ministers made during their meeting in Abu Dhabi last November, which were referred to the GCC leaders during their December summit meeting in Riyadh. [passage omitted]

Sources at the GCC General Secretariat say that "the joint Gulf early warning network which has been agreed will not lead to a radical change in what already exists in the member states. This network will amount to a coalition among the radar networks the Gulf states own at present and what they plan to own in the future, provided a mechanism is secured to guarantee a smooth flow and exchange of information among the armed forces of the member states." The meeting of the chiefs of staff committee will determine a location for the command of the early warning network system.

Regarding development of the Peninsula Shield, there is an agreement to enlarge it, namely by each state allocating units from its army to join the Peninsula Shield Force whenever necessary or during joint exercises and maneuvers.

There is also an agreement that the Peninsula Shield Force command be assumed by turns among the member states, provided that the headquarters of these forces remains in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and that a unified general staff, based in Riyadh, is formed for these forces.

Regarding financing and armament, each state will contribute according to the number of units it allocates to the Peninsula Shield Force.

GCC Secretary General Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi says that the recommendations are intended to develop the Peninsula Shield Force and to make it a deterrent force with an early warning network in order to guarantee the region's stability and security. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Emir Issues Decree on Resignation, Government Reshuffle

LD1304181394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1714 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Apr—An Emiri decree issued today accepted the resignation of five ministers from the Kuwaiti Government formed in October 1992 and ordered a government reshuffle.

The decree stipulated in its first article the acceptance of the resignation of the following ministers:

—Ahmad Muhammad al-'Adsani, minister of electricity, water, and public works;

—Jam'an Salih al-'Atmi, minister of religious trusts and Islamic affairs;

- Dr. 'Abdallah Rashid al-Hajiri, minister of commerce and industry;

- Dr. 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Fawzan, minister of health;

- 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli, petroleum minister.

Further on Decree

LD1304191694 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Government reshuffle decree: After taking cognizance of the Constitution and our decree issued on 16 Rabi' al-Thani 1413 H, corresponding to 2 October 1992 AD, appointing the heir apparent, Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, as prime minister, and decree number 198 of the year 1992 forming the government, and decree number 2 of the year 1993 AD appointing a minister of state for the cabinet affairs, and decree 150 of the year 1993 amending the decree on the government reshuffle. On the basis of the recommendation of the prime minister, we have decreed the following:

Article One: The appointment of Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan [second deputy prime minister] is amended in the following way: Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan [becomes] second deputy prime minister and finance minister.

Article Two:

— Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir is appointed defense minister.
—Ahmad Khalid al-Kulayb, minister of social affairs and labor
—Jasim Muhammad al-'Awn, minister of communications, electricity, and water
—Habib Jawhar Hayat is appointed minister of public works,

and minister of state for housing affairs.
—'Abd al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet

affairs and minister of planning.

- —Dr 'Abd al-Rahman Salih al-Muhaylan, health minister
- —Dr 'Abd al-Muhsin Mid'aj al-Mid'aj, oil minister.
- —'Ali Sabah al-Salim, interior minister.
- —Dr 'Ali Fahd al-Zumay', minister of religious endowments and

Islamic affairs.

- —Hilal Mishari al-Mutayri, minister of commerce and industry.

Article Three: The prime minister is requested to implement this decree and convey it to the national assembly. It is to take effect as of the date of its issuance and will be published in the official gazette.

[Signed] Emir of Kuwait Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah;
Prime Minister Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah.
[Dated] Issued on 2nd Dhi al-Qa'dah 1413 H. corresponding to 13 April 1994 AD.

Qatar

Foreign Minister on Relations With Israel, Iraq

NC1304194794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Bonn, 13 Apr (MENA)—Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani has stated that his country is not trying to undermine the importance of the Suez Canal as a vital artery for world trade. In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Bonn, he said no agreement has been concluded with Israel on transporting gas through al-'Aqabah Port [name of port as transmitted], as German media have reported.

Shaykh Hamad said the press has inflated this issue, which does not exist, indicating that any dealings between Qatar and Israel hinge on the termination of its occupation of all Arab territories occupied in 1967. He explained that the gas export agreement was concluded with an Italian firm, which then delayed its implementation.

On Qatar's relations with Iraq, Shaykh Hamad said his country deals with peoples and not with regimes. He indicated that contacts between Doha and Baghdad depend on Iraq's implementation of the UN resolutions. He spoke about the importance of cooperation and resolving differences among the Arab states, indicating that the Arab world cannot bear any new differences at present.

Shaykh Hamad said that in the event a Gulf state is threatened, help should come from the friendly Arab states before it comes from foreign countries. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Country To Buy Submarines To Guard Gulf, Coastlines

NC1404103794 Paris AFP in English 0902 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Riyadh, April 14 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia plans to buy submarines to protect its coastlines both along the Gulf and the Red Sea, the official news agency SPA reported Thursday.

Deputy Defence Minister 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, quoted by SPA, told naval officers in al-Dammam on Wednesday that his country wanted submarines which could adapt to the Red Sea and the more shallow waters of the Gulf.

Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman did not disclose if negotiations had opened for buying the vessels.

Iran, across the oil-rich Gulf from the Saudi kingdom, bought three submarines from Russia in 1992, raising concern among its Arab neighbours and their Western allies which have a naval presence in the strategic waterway.

SPA also reported that the national guard on Wednesday wound up a week of exercises on the Gulf coast of eastern Saudi Arabia.

Shaykh Zayid Receives Message From Ukraine's Kravchuk

JN1304180094 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Al-'Ayn, 13 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyn, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a written message from Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. The message deals with relations of cooperation and friendship between the two countries and ways of enhancing them.

The message was delivered by visiting Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Yuvitoho [name as received] to Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy prime minister, during their meeting today.

His highness welcomed the organization of the first Ukrainian industry fair, which is currently under way in al-Sharjah. He hoped that the fair will create more prospects for cooperation between the two countries in the various fields of investment in the interest of the two countries and peoples.

For his part, the Ukrainian deputy prime minister briefed his highness on a proposal by Ukraine to form a joint committee to organize cooperation and open new prospects for economic and scientific cooperation between the two countries.

United Arab Emirates

Joint Meeting With Pakistan Ends; Agreement Signed

BK1404060294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] have agreed on a wider basis for close cooperation in joint ventures, investment, trade, and the industrial sector. The agreement was reached at the sixth session of the Pakistan-UAE Joint Ministerial Commission, which ended in Abu Dhabi yesterday. The joint commission agreed that steps should be taken to boost cooperation in water, power, agriculture, telecommunications, education, and narcotics control. Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali led the Pakistani delegation at the commission meeting, while the Emirian delegation was led by Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The Pakistani foreign minister later had a meeting with Emirian President Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and exchanged views on bilateral matters and regional issues of mutual interest. The foreign minister briefed the Emirian president on the latest situation in occupied Kashmir.

Yemen

Military Committee Concludes 4-Day Aden Session

JN1304185394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] The Military Committee today concluded its 10-13 April meetings in the economic and commercial capital, Aden, led by brothers Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, the defense minister, and Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Malik al-Sayyani, the chief of the general staff.

Over the four days, the committee discussed the best ways to implement Council of Ministers' decision number 39 on the basis of the accord document concerning the military forces.

The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', learned that a comrade-in-arms spirit, sincere Yemeni brotherhood, and a unionist spirit prevailed in the committee's meeting. All felt the importance of their meetings and their continuation in order to achieve the tasks assigned to the committee, which are based on the accord document's implementation, as emphasized by the meeting of the Council of Ministers.

SABA' learned that the committee will continue its meetings in the Ta'izz Governorate early next week to complete what is left of these tasks, to work out a plan for military movements, and to eliminate any military tensions. The committee will present the Defense Ministry's plan to the Council of Ministers during its next meeting.

The Military Committee meetings were attended by a member of the Jordanian military committee, and the U.S. and French military attaches.

YSP Official Welcomes Continued Arab Mediation

PM1404093094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Apr 94 p 5

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the Socialist Party, by unidentified reporter in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What are the results of your visits to Syria and Jordan and the meetings you held with President Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn?

[Muhammad] The visits are considered successful. We have come out with the impression that there is clear Arab interest in our conditions in Yemen and in helping us with the support of our brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt, and Jordan. We have sensed interest in helping Yemen to overcome the problems and difficulties facing unity. And we have learned what role fraternal Arab countries can play to help Yemen to surmount its predicament and eliminate any contemplation of a military action. Because this option is incompatible with domestic conditions and the stability of this vital region, which is the focus of the world's eyes, not only for political considerations, but clear economic and geographical considerations as well.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Did you request the continuation of Arab mediation in general or just the Jordanians' efforts to follow up what was agreed in Amman?

[Muhammad] Yes, we have asked the Syrian, Jordanian, and Egyptian brothers and some Arab brothers to continue their role, specifically Jordan, on the grounds that it is represented in the military committee. It also has a political role in the current dialogue process. And the Pledge Document was signed in Amman. Of course, there are developments now, and an Arab presence has begun to take shape.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] It is said that there is a move to hold a four-way Arab summit in Damascus to discuss the crisis in Yemen. Did you discuss this issue in Syria?

[Muhammad] I have not heard about that. However, preparations are being made to hold an expanded meeting in Cairo in which all Arab parties concerned, including the Arab League and Yemeni leaderships, will participate. No date has been set yet. This idea emerged during the Egyptian and United Arab Emirates envoys' visits to Yemen. The Yemeni leaderships did not object. They welcomed the idea of holding the meeting in Cairo.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Some observers believe that all the present Arab and international initiatives are aimed at fighting the religious extremism represented in some Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] elements. What is your position in this connection?

[Muhammad] Those claims are made by elements linked to the YRG. But the real fear is the orientation toward establishing a fascist state relying on the arms stockpile totaling at least 1 million rifles, according to the interior minister's recent statement. This orientation is the frightening one. Of course, there is a world Islamic movement whose capabilities are known. They are supported by several states, and I will not name any one state. Many of the states which agree with this idea have interests in this connection. They support such orientation in Yemen and elsewhere. They are the ones fueling religious extremism in the Arab world.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] It is reported that some parties are working to thwart the Amman agreement. Do you believe there are any indications of that?

[Muhammad] Those are premature conclusions. They are based on false information or positions that must be rectified, not only to end Yemen's crisis, but also to improve Arab relations in general and to eliminate any sensitivity among states. Obviously much information, and coordination among Arab states, have to be corrected.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Why have the Yemenis not referred their case to the Arab League, the official Arab establishment entrusted with looking into such cases?

[Muhammad] We never turned to the Arab League in the past, nor do we favor turning to it now. We prefer Arab efforts from any Arab country. These efforts have so far been made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates. We appreciate these efforts and welcome their continuation. We believe they lead us to more success than the routine efforts made by official organs in the League or elsewhere.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is it true that the Aden leadership prefers a federation to Yemeni unity in its present form?

[Muhammad] About 75 percent of the document talks about a federation, so let us begin there. As to why we do not talk about it openly, perhaps the word arouses some sensitivity. This is why we avoid announcing that, since the document itself talks in practice about points leading to a federation.

Saddam Envoy Arrives in Sanaa on 'Working Visit' 13 Apr

JN1304191994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Brother Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information in the fraternal Republic of Iraq and personal envoy of brother Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, arrived in Sanaa this evening on a working visit to our country.

He was received by Information Minister Hasan al-Lawzi, representative of the protocols of the Presidential Council, brother Dr. Muhsin Khalil, ambassador of the Republic Of Iraq to our country, and a number of embassy staff members.

Yemeni Reform Grouping Threatened With 'Isolation'

PM1304144094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Hamud Munsir: "Danger of Tribal Dispute and Political Isolation Threaten Yemeni Reform Grouping"]

[Text] Sanaa—The Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG]—the third partner in the ruling coalition in Sanaa—is faced with two problems: One at the tribal level, namely with the main tendency in its formation, and another at the political level. The two problems threaten to reduce its role in power in the future as a result of the tribal dispute between the Hashid tribe, from which the grouping's leadership comes, and the Bakil tribe. And also because of the external moves and bilateral contacts between its partners in power: The General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. [passage omitted)

Corroborated information obtained by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT says that the Nasirite Unionist Party—an opposition party—has not yet decided to open a dialogue with the YRG, because the latter is a partner in government. Meanwhile the YRG feels isolated because of its exclusion from many of the consultations inside the ruling coalition, especially after the YSP sensed some contradictions between the GPC and the Reform Grouping and thus began to exploit them.

However, observers point to a kind of breakthrough toward a solution to the crisis in the light of the mediation efforts made by Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. They expect a meeting to be held between President Salih and Vice President al-Bid in Cairo at the beginning of next month at the latest to restore stability to Yemen before the unity anniversary on 22 May.

'Official' Spokesman: No Knowledge of Helicopter Incident

JN1404145094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1435 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—An official Iraqi spokesman has stressed that Iraqi authorities have no knowledge of the incident that occurred in the northern region, in which, according to the news, two helicopters belonging to foreign forces fell.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said the Iraqi Air Force has in no way carried out any activities in the region.

Saddam Reportedly 'Confined to Bed' With 'Serious' Illness

PM1404115094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Lebanon Arrests Two Iraqi Diplomats Following Assassination of Figure Opposed to Baghdad Government"]

[Excerpts] London, Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Lebanese security forces yesterday announced that an Iraqi oppositionist holding a Jordanian passport was shot dead the night before last in the area of 'Ayn al-Tinah in Beirut.

Lebanese security forces said that the murdered person is Talib Suhayl, an Iraqi oppositionist in exile who had lived in Lebanon for several years. [passage omitted]

In London, the "Free Iraqi Council" [FIC], an Iraqi opposition organization, has confirmed that Talib 'Ali Suhayl was a member of the council's Central Committee and leader of the Bani Tamim tribe. It added that he was found dead in his apartment in Beirut the day before yesterday. FIC sources say that early information indicates that Iraqi Government organs were behind the assassination operation. In a statement, a copy of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has received, the council said an armed group stormed Talib Suhayl's apartment and shot him.

The council pointed out that the dead man had on several occasions told his family and FIC Chairman Sa'd Salih Jabr about telephone murder threats he had received in recent months from elements belonging to the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The statement, signed by Sa'd Salih Jabr, said that Talib Suhayl was forced to leave Amman, his permanent residence, as a result of these threats. He moved between a number of capitals, the latest was Beirut. [passage omitted]

Elsewhere, the support office of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq issued a statement yesterday in which it cited strong rumors about President Saddam Husayn's health. Dr. Hamid al-Bayyati, FIC representative in London, said that circles close to the authorities (in Baghdad) leaked information about Saddam's suffering from a serious illness as a result of which he is confined to bed, and that a team of doctors are supervising his treatment for hysterical nervous fits following which he goes into a coma for many hours.

Clandestine Radio Comments

NC1404145194 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Summary from poor reception] "Reports emerging from Baghdad" have said that something is wrong with "the dictator of Iraq Saddam Husayn." He has not appeared in public for some time. "The tyrant might be afflicted with a dangerous disease that has forced him to be confined to his bed. A group of doctors is attempting to cure him of fits of (?madness). Citizens have noticed that Baghdad Television is showing shots of old occasions, which has raised doubts about what is happening to the tyrant recently."

Saddam Chairs Meeting 12 Apr

JN1204193894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has presided over a meeting attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister; Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister; and several state officials.

Official Talks Begin With Turkish Foreign Ministry Team

JN1404134794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Official talks between Iraq and Turkey began at the Foreign Ministry today.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi led the Iraqi side to the talks, and Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ozdem Sanberk led the Turkish side.

The Iraqi delegation includes a number of officials at the ministries of oil, trade, and industry, and the Military Industrialization Organization. The Turkish delegation includes a number of Turkish officials.

The talks dealt with relations between the two neighborly counties, means of promoting them, particularly concerning cooperation in oil and trade fields, and political issues of interest to the two friendly countries.

The talks were permeated by an atmosphere of frankness, friendship, and concern about promoting and bolstering this in the service of the interests of the peoples in the two neighborly countries.

The two sides are scheduled to resume their talks tomorrow, Friday.

Turkish Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ozdem Sanberk arrived in Baghdad last night at the head of a delegation on a three-day visit to Iraq at an official invitation of the Foreign Ministry.

Parliamentarians Head for France To Seek Release of Assets

JN1304103694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Apr 94 p 2

[Excerpts] Amman—The Iraqi parliamentarians headed for France on Tuesday to attend a session of the European Parliament where they are expected to make a strong pitch for the release of frozen Iraqi assets and an end to the 45-month old international sanctions against their country.

Abd-al-Karim 'Abbas and Bashir Qadim, members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Iraqi Parliament, are expected to present a summary of the impact of the sanctions against their country and argue that Baghdad has satisfactorily met with all demands of the United Nations Security council, diplomats said.

One of the immediate Iraqi requests to be made formally and informally at the Strasbourg meetings is expected to be for an unfreezing of Iraqi assets that remain frozen in some of the European countries. [passage omitted].

At the outset of the Gulf crisis, Iraqi assets frozen abroad were estimated to be worth around $4 billion. Since then some of the governments have publicly released the funds while others have clandestinely entered agreements with the Iraqi government. Under the agreements, some of the governments agreed that part of the frozen assets be used to pay for Iraqi imports from their countries and part be used as collateral to guarantee Iraqi letters of credit.

In the maze of a confusing array of arrangements that the Iraqi government has entered into with many sympathetic Western and Third World governments, the actual amount that remains in the frozen accounts is not known.

"I don't think many senior Iraqi officials themselves know what is left and what has been appropriated in their inter-bank arrangements and agreements," said a source closely familiar with Iraqi moves in the international market.

The two Iraqi members of Parliament are expected to issue a public appeal for the release of frozen Iraqi assets in the member countries of the European Union (EU) as well as for EU support for Baghdad's call for an end to the international sanctions.

A diplomat said Iraq "will have a listening audience particularly from among French members of the European Parliament." The diplomat noted that France has stood out among the five permanent members of the Security Council to argue that Iraq deserved an easing of the crippling sanctions. (passage omitted]

Meanwhile, an Italian business delegation is expected here Wednesday after a visit to Baghdad.

Diplomatic sources said Iraqi officials who met with the delegation raised the issue of unfreezing Iraqi assets held in Italian banks. Some of the banks have already entered unpublicised arrangements with the Iraqi government, but others are believed to be holding back.

The delegation includes businessmen and officials of the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce, but the team's trip to Baghdad was not arranged or organised by the Italian governments, the Italian Embassy in Amman said.

During their stay in Amman, the delegation members will hold talks with their Jordanian counterparts on issues related to Jordanian-Italian trade.

Delegation Arrives in Paris

JN1404142994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1248 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Paris, 14 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi parliamentary delegation arrived here last night from Strasbourg last night to participate in the meetings of the Euro-Arab parliamentary dialogue conference due to begin here tomorrow [15 April].

The Iraqi parliamentary delegation, led by 'Abd-al-Karim Jihad, member of the Culture and Information Committee at the National Assembly, took part in the Arab delegation's meetings with the general secretariat of the Euro-Arab parliamentary dialogue conference yesterday.

'Abd-al-Karim Jihad told an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Paris that he made a statement before the Arab delegations in which he explained the serious effects of the embargo on Iraqi children, women, and the elderly, providing figures, and the fatalities and new diseases that infect children and old people due to the shortage of medicines.

'Abd-al-Karim Jihad, head of the Iraqi parliamentary delegation to the meetings of the Euro-Arab parliamentary conference, held bilateral meetings with heads of the Sudanese, Moroccan, Tunisian, Algerian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Jordanian Parliamentary delegations, who expressed their support for the Iraqi people, and stressed the need to lift the blockade imposed on them.

Al-Sahhaf Protests Detentions, Denies Murder Connection

JN1404095594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today sent a message to Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

INA has learned that in his message, al-Sahhaf said the Lebanese authorities arrested two Iraqi diplomats working at our embassy in Beirut and called on the

Lebanese minister to immediately intervene to secure their release in compliance with the correct procedures observed in diplomatic relations between states and the diplomatic immunity they enjoy.

In his message, the foreign minister categorically denied any connection between the detained diplomats and any behavior outside the framework of their diplomatic work.

Radio Reports on Operations in South

NC1304180594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] A responsible source from the Islamic Resistance forces inside the marshlands of southern Iraq has affirmed that the authorities of tyrant Saddam have reinforced their troops and weapons in the east of al-'Amarah Governorate, especially in the (al-Tshakkah) marshland. The source added in a statement to the media center of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq that in the past few days the Islamic Resistance's monitoring groups have recorded movement and changes in the regime's forces on the road between the al-Kahla' district and al-Musharrah subdistrict. It also saw large numbers of military units taking up positions in strategic areas near the [name indistinct] marshland.

The source said that the dictator forces deployed a number of large-caliber artillery and mortar battalions and brought down to the shores of (al-Tshakkah) marshland large numbers of military boats carrying [words indistinct] and armed with large-caliber artillery.

The source announced that the resistance forces in the south took steps and measures to thwart tyrant Saddam's attempts to annihilate the residents and areas of the marshlands. The resistance in fact started implementing a number of protective operations to hamper the regime's intelligence forces east of al-'Amarah Governorate by blowing up bridges and strategic roads that the regime's forces use in their maneuvers and movements. They also continued their attacks in the above-mentioned areas.

Islamic Resistance Blows Up 'Important' Roads

NC1304180494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] The Islamic resistance forces last week carried out two brave operations in which they succeeded in blowing up and destroying large parts of the road that links the al-Kahla' district to the subdistrict of al-Musharrah at various points. In addition, they blew up the (al-Ghutayji) bridge across the (al-Ghutayji) River, which is a tributary of the al-Musharrah River and pours into the al-Qubbah marshland east of the al-'Amarah Governorate.

He added that the targets were considered two of the most important roads of communication used by the regime's forces in transporting equipment and troops recently.

A source in the Islamic resistance forces clarified that resistance groups distributed leaflets in the places where the regime's forces were deployed. They warned these forces against becoming involved in the regime's bloody schemes. It called on them to disobey orders and direct their weapons at tyrant Saddam's aides and his collapsing regime, which is on the brink of annihilation.

Country To Sign Oil Deals With European Firms in May

JN1304101194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA)—Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad has said that Iraq is making preparations to sign new oil deals with several European firms next month.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published here today, Jawad added that the cooperation talks between Iraq and European oil corporations have reached an advanced stage, noting that preparations are currently under way for signing several contracts with these firms after the recent conclusion of cooperation agreements with French oil firms.

The minister addressed the issue of oil cooperation between Iraq and Turkey, saying that the Turkish side has demonstrated an urgent desire to reopen the Iraqi oil pipeline across Turkey, particularly since the latter is suffering from an unemployment that is having political and economic effects.

The minister asserted that the oil pipeline that runs across Turkish territory is ready for operation once the Iraq sanctions are lifted.

Minister Meets Italian Deputies, Notes Business Prospects

JN1304175294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA)—Ahmad Murtada Ahmad, minister of transportation and communications, has stressed Iraq's readiness to discuss and study the signing and implementation of contracts with Italian firms and institutions in the fields of transportation and communications.

During a meeting today with Italian members of parliament Antonio Catika and Joseph Sarta [names as received], the minister said that such contracts would include railroads, communications, aviation, airlines, maritime transportation, trucks, and buses, and could be worth billions of dollars.

He said Italian firms had benefited from the extensive commercial ties that once existed between Iraq and Italy. He said such firms suffered grave losses as a result of the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq by the U.S. Administration.

The two Italian parliament members stressed that they will brief the Italian parliament during its next session on their impressions of the situation in Iraq and the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the blockade. They will also brief the Italian parliament on the extensive business prospects available for Italian firms in Iraq.

Country Pledges To Pay Egyptian Workers If Blockade Eased

NC1404075594 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 7 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] The Iraqi Government has pledged to pay the back salaries of Egyptian workers, estimated at $500 million. An Iraqi diplomatic source in Cairo has affirmed that his government submitted an official request to the Security Council in the past few days to release part of the frozen Iraqi assets to pay the Egyptian workers. The source noted that Baghdad had requested Egypt's assistance in obtaining the Security Council's approval.

Iraqi Labor Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim and Egyptian Manpower Minister Ahmad al-'Amawi discussed ways of paying the Egyptian workers their salaries.

The Iraqi source pointed out that Iraq has pledged to pay the salaries if the Security Council allows Iraq to sell its oil or eases the international blockade. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has received reports from the Egyptian Interests Section in Iraq on the situation of 80,000 Egyptian workers there.

Paper on Countdown to End of Embargo

JN1304122994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that any observer of political developments can easily see that the countdown for the removal of some aspects of the embargo has begun due to several national constants, as well as a host of significant Arab and international changes.

In an article contributed by Dr. Safa' Salih al-'Umar, member of the National Assembly and chairman of the Arab and International Relations Committee of the Assembly, the paper adds that this has been manifested in the political and economic positions of several states that are currently attempting to clearly reformulate their positions toward several hot issues on the international scene.

AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, notes that the Iraqi people's harsh daily sufferings under the sanctions, as well as the immense sacrifices they have made during the 30-state aggression, along with the intense efforts made by Iraqis and some Arab and international parties, have all contributed toward explaining this suffering and mobilizing opposition to the continued enforcement of the sanctions within popular and official quarters.

The paper argues that the financial losses several states and peoples have sustained due to the political and economic instability in the region, which is directly linked to the stability of Iraq and its regional economic, political, and security role, were also instrumental in effecting this change on the international scene.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the Iraqi people's suffering has been accompanied by heroic steadfastness in the face of all aspects of the aggression, be they political, military, informational, or psychological. The Iraqi people have persisted in this steadfastness in extremely harsh circumstances, something which prompted several Western political policymakers to reconsider the usefulness of this unfair position toward the Iraqi people, as well as its potential harm for the region and their countries' interests.

The paper goes on to say: The Western political policymakers have continued their efforts to maintain and foster the state of imbalance in the Arab region—as state of insecurity and instability. Sometimes, the West uses this tactic to quietly create footholds in the region. At other times, it enters the region militarily through exaggerated publicity to maintain this imbalance by various means, such as the fuelling of local or regional wars.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying that the objective that lies before us at present should not be confined to lifting the sanctions. We should also be able to define our positions in the post-sanctions era toward a host of national and humanitarian issues related to our progressive policy in line with the factors that we have mentioned, and in the context of the network of Arab and international relations created by changes on the Arab and international scene, changes that Iraq and its people have been experiencing over the past 10 years.

Paper Says Iraq-AL-MUHARRIR 'Honeymoon' Over

JN1304150094 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 13 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] It seems the honeymoon between the Paris-based AL-MUHARRIR and the Iraqi authorities is over.

In a dramatic development, Iraqi authorities decided to stop printing the paper in Iraq after it had been printed there for more than three years. The authorities decided to ban the entry and distribution of AL-MUHARRIR in Iraq after the Iraqi Information Ministry decided to seal off the paper's bureau and to ban its correspondent Akram Tahir Hassan from sending reports to the paper.

AL-BILAD's information emphasizes that the latest Iraqi measures have been taken against the backdrop of the radical changes recently introduced by AL-MUHARRIR. The Iraqi authorities stress that AL-MUHARRIR has come under the control of the Gulf regimes, except the great shaykhdom of Kuwait.

The deviation of AL-MUHARRIR from Baghdad's line has deprived it from selling thousands of copies in the Iraqi market, which are printed at the expense of the Iraqi people who are still suffering from the second Gulf war and from famine that the Gulf shaykhdoms are imposing in cooperation with the new world order.

Ship From Bangladesh Carrying Sugar Docks 13 Apr

JN1304200794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The Bangladesh ship [name indistinct] carrying large quantities of sugar docked at the Umm Qasr port today. An Iraqi News Agency correspondent in al-Basrah Governorate said port workers started unloading the ship and transporting the shipment to the warehouses of the [words indistinct] by the trucks of the State Enterprise for Land Transportation. [passage omitted]

Rabin Views Attacks, IDF Steps, Peace Process

TA1304131894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Report on news conference with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Udi Segal "held in Jerusalem a short while ago"—live]

[Text] The prime minister seemed very disturbed by the Hadera terror attack. He spent several hours of interviews with the various media summoned on Independence Day, and the report on the attack came in the middle of them, in the middle of Memorial Day. Prime Minister Rabin said that this was yet another attack by fanatics trying to sabotage the peace process. We, however, will stay the course and continue implementing the peace process, thus foiling their intentions to harm it.

Rabin spoke about the announcement by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], stating that after the Hebron massacre and again today Hamas announced it will carry out five harsh retaliatory attacks inside Israel's territory to revenge the massacre. According to Hamas, it has carried out two of those attacks: the grave attack last week in 'Afula and today's serious attack in Hadera. Prime Minister Rabin said Hamas and the Islamic Jihad decided to focus on their activity inside the Green Line boundaries with a political aim of diverting Israeli public opinion against the peace process.

[Begin Rabin recording] I am primarily responsible for the security of sovereign Israel, including united Jerusalem. There are some 4.2 million Jews and over 900,000 Arabs inside sovereign Israel. Some 120,000 Jews live in the territories, I mean Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. They must be protected too, but 'Afula, Hadera, Netanya, and everywhere else should take precedence over all that is in the Judaea and Samaria. In 1994, 23 Israelis in uniform and civilians were killed, murdered—some 20 of them were killed inside the boundaries of sovereign Israel.

The Hamas and Islamic Jihad organizations have reached the conclusion that they should attack not only settlers—although they are included—but primarily they decided to focus on attacks inside Israel. They realized that they gain political profit from the reactions of the Israeli opposition against the peace process—which is their main political aim. It earns them more. Anyone who today calls for an end to the negotiations is giving Hamas and Islamic Jihad an additional incentive to continue their acts of terror. The true answer we—together with the PLO—should give them is proof that we can reach an agreement, that it can be implemented, and that our reality changes as a result of the implementation. If we succeed in doing this, it would be the answer to the murderers of 'Afula and Hadera, and to most of the terror activity that resulted in the deaths of Jews. [end recording]

The prime minister also spoke today of operative steps which will be taken in view of the Hadera attack. He will soon instruct the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to move forces from inside the territories and deploy them between the Green Line and the territories thereby reinforcing the closure. This will create a thicker barrier between the territories and the area inside the Green Line. Forces will be moved out from areas densely populated by Arabs, the city centers, and create a barrier, for example, between Janin and 'Afula and between Tulkarm and Hadera. Rabin admitted that the closure does not provide an absolute solution. Anyone who really wants to, can get out.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] The closure is not hermetic. It is effective in preventing laborers from carrying out individual attacks. It does place some burden on the terror organizations, but does not prevent their activity altogether. Some 10,000 Israeli cars cross daily from Judaea and Samaria alone into Israel. No one can expect soldiers at checkpoints to be able to discern whether a car bearing a yellow [Israeli] license plate is not driven by an Israeli civilian and is getting across. Unless we introduce a more serious separation, there would be no certainty that a bomb is not placed in an Israeli car stolen in Israel, or that an individual does not cross the lines and reach 'Afula or Hadera on foot. All he has to do is cross a certain line, catch a ride, or walk. Most of them speak Hebrew and are able to do this. We must invest more in this and, as I said before, we will move out troops currently engaged in the protection of settlements. After all, Elon More [Jewish settlement] does not protect 'Afula! It is protected by the IDF, the Israel Police, and the Shin Bet.

[Segal] Mr. Prime Minister, you spoke of the wave of terror striking at us now. Do you believe that after the Gaza and Jericho agreement is implemented the situation will improve?

[Rabin] The test will be in Gaza and Jericho. I cannot demand that an Arab leader in Tunisia be able to have a bigger impact on Judaea and Samaria than the IDF has while in control of the territory. Can the PLO influence Hamas or the Islamic Jihad which carry out most of the terror acts? Here and there are some who quit the PLO and take to terror, but we have such people everywhere. Therefore, the real test will be when they assume responsibility, after we reach an agreement. Then, they will have to meet the commitments they made in the agreement. That is why we insist on reaching an agreement that would provide us with the utmost security. [end recording]

Another question posed to Rabin was on the recent decline in the public's support for the government's moves. Rabin said in response that the opposition does not have an alternative. What they are suggesting is a political freeze which will lead to an escalation. This, in fact, is exactly the aim of the Palestinian factions which carry out the terror attacks. Rabin was asked for his view of the public opinion polls showing this decline in public support.

[Begin Rabin recording] I became prime minister of my own free will. I struggled through Labor primaries and the Knesset elections. I did not seek this chair just to sit there. I believed that I should do things differently from the previous governments, also on domestic issues, but let us leave this for the moment. Primarily, I wished to give new meaning to negotiations on the basis of the Madrid conference. I acknowledged that there is only one Palestinian partner, if we stop the masquerade—the PLO. The Palestinians are split: Some support the PLO, and there are those who opt for terror, but the bulk of the Palestinians support the PLO and opt for negotiations. The other half, the other part, are the supporters of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad who want to continue the war, terror, and violence against us, and reject any political arrangement. We must find a partner for the agreement. Past hopes that Palestinians from the territories could do this were proven absolutely unreal. I know that I am facing a decline in the Israeli public support for the move—because of the terrorism, not because of the nature of the political solution. I will not change my policies in view of a certain public opinion poll held on a certain day, week, or month. As long as I have a Knesset majority, I will carry on in this way. I wish to exhaust the chance to attain peace. As I have said before, the alternative is a freeze and escalation with all that entails. Let us not forget, the signing of the Declaration of Principles had an impact on the Arab world. Otherwise Israeli delegations could not have gone to Oman to prepare a meeting of a multilateral committee there, or in Qatar. Did anyone believe such things and others which will follow could happen? Many in the Arab world and outside it had believed that the heart of the conflict is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—and I am not saying that this is correct or incorrect. The fact that we dared to deal with it has opened new horizons for us. [end recording]

Rabin: Bible Not "Precise Map" of Jewish State

TA1304172894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Karmit Gay, Sheli Yehimovich, and Shlomo Razon 13 April; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Yehimovich] The Jewish settlers were once favored by the government, even when your party was in power before. Now they have been somehow pushed into a corner. Naturally, they are not all made of one skin. They are not all Barukh Goldstein. Many of them have a different world view. Do you intend at any stage to resume a dialogue with them, hold a closer and more frequent dialogue with them?

[Rabin] In a democratic state, it is legitimate to support or oppose the government policies. Staging legal demonstrations is legitimate. It is not legitimate to make threats, warn use of force. Certainly it is not legitimate to issue halakic decrees urging soldiers to disobey orders. To me, this is most grave. It is inconceivable to call on soldiers of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]—which, as the military, is subject to the democratically and legally elected government which issues legitimate orders—to disobey an order. Had we accepted the principle that anyone may decide for himself what is right and what is not—whether he is a rabbi or a public figure—hundreds and thousands of soldiers would have refused to serve in Lebanon, and hundreds, if not thousands, would have refused to serve in the territories.

I believe the Jewish nation has a right to settle in Eretz Yisra'el, but according to a concept. When I was prime minister between 1974 and 1977, I prevented the establishment of a Jewish quarter in Hebron. I believed it was a mistake. This is what Qiryat Arba' is for. I opposed setting up Jewish settlement in areas densely populated by Palestinians. I agreed to the establishment of settlements in the 'Etzyon Bloc, in Qiryat Arba', in the Jordan Rift Valley, and on the outskirts of Netanya, such as Alfe Menashe, and Elqana. I never wanted settlement in the heart of the Palestinian population in Judaea and Samaria, between Ramallah and Nabulus.

Jewish history mentions Nabulus but, for example, Ashqelon, Qiryat Gat, and Ashdod are situated on historic Philistine land. Today they are rightfully part of the State of Israel. I do not suggest that we view the Bible as the book of maps of the Jewish state. To me, the Bible is the book of religion, real values, real codes, tradition, and history of the Jewish nation. This is how I studied it. Not as the book of the precise maps of the Jewish state. [passage omitted]

Peres Comments on 'Arafat Condemnation of Terror

TA1404111394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] At this morning's ceremony at the president's residence, reporter Amy Rhodes asked Foreign Minister Peres how he responded to 'Arafat's phone call to Prime Minister Rabin last night.

[Begin recording] [Peres] Well, we appreciate the call. We would like to see a more definite language, but this is a decision for Mr. 'Arafat, not for us. We shall condemn any and every act of terror whether it will be against innocent Arab people or innocent Israeli people. Nobody has the right to take away the life of anybody.

[Rhodes] Has the Israeli Government expressed to 'Arafat that they would like him to use stronger language?

[Peres] We are not offering lessons to anybody. It is for 'Arafat to decide the language he wants to use.

[Rhodes] Is the Israeli Government satisfied with what he said?

[Peres] Our job is to provide security and to continue with peace. We are not in the business of reviews.

[Rhodes] The opposition is saying that if 'Arafat cannot even come out and condemn the attack, what kind of peace are we actually making? Can you comment on that?

[Peres] He is making peace with us. You know, the opposition is measuring and judging everything by declarations. Declarations are important. They are not the most important thing, and I do see that the opposition is having a summer collection of wintry declarations. It is of no importance. Words are words and actions are actions, and changes are changes, and we are not in the business of confusing it like the right is doing. [end recording]

[In a similar report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 14 April, referring to 'Arafat's response to the latest terrorist attack, Peres says in a recorded passage: "I believe that for his own sake and for the sake of his nation, he should come out with the sharpest condemnation of terror."]

Peres on State's Willingness To Vacate Territories

TA1304144394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Apr 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Aluf Ben, Eytan Rabin, 'Amira Hess, and Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpts] The Palestinian delegation has notified the Israeli delegates in Cairo that the PLO will not send policemen to Gaza and Jericho before the withdrawal agreement is concluded and signed.

Israel has agreed that 300 Palestinian policemen, mainly on the command level, immediately enter the region to overlap with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers while the Palestinians study the region and receive the buildings and equipment. The PLO had asked that 1,000 policemen be immediately given full powers on the ground. When Israel refused, the PLO decided that the Palestinian police force enter Gaza and Jericho only after the agreement is signed. [passage omitted]

Russian President Boris Yeltsin does not intend to visit the Middle East next month and will not visit 'Arafat in his new Jericho headquarters, contrary to reports which appeared in Arab newspapers and were quoted in Israel. This transpires from messages which have arrived from Moscow over the last few days. According to these messages Yeltsin is extremely occupied by internal Russian issues, and will not be able to tour the Middle East in the near future.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday called on the Middle East countries to cooperate in the economic sphere in order to raise their citizens' standard of living. Visiting Istanbul, Peres said: "We must develop regional economy in order to equalize the standards of living." Peres said Israel is willing to vacate territories it conquered from Arab countries despite strong opposition to this move in Israel. "Israel must return territories to Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinians. We want to help our neighbors achieve prosperity. Israel cannot remain an island of prosperity in a poverty-ridden area," Peres said.

Peres on Need for Security Based on NATO Model

TA1304153894 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Apr 94 p 15

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Amir Neumann and Daniyel Ben-Simon in Jerusalem on 6 April]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [DAVAR] Can you foresee how relations between Israel and its neighbors will develop from the current situation in the region?

[Peres] Undoubtedly. I think that it is only the start, and to tell the truth—I am impatient. I believe we have one year in which to act. I believe that campaigning will begin next year, so that we are left with one full year. That is not a great deal of time. The Golan Heights is our last hurdle, and I ask: What do we do in that year? What do we do with that hurdle? What can we achieve on a security level?

My answer to that is that a new system of relations has to be achieved also here. We have to achieve regional security. We have to insist on two conditions with the Syrians: One, comprehensive negotiations, which will end the war with all the Arab states, except for Iraq, Iran, and Libya. Second, to begin a new strategic setup that responds to the threat of missiles and nuclear arms through an early warning system and nonaggression pacts, which will provide security to the nations.

It will be a joint Middle East structure, plus the United States, plus Russia, based on the NATO model. In addition, a new economic system has to be set up. Whoever thinks he can live outside the region is making a terrible mistake. I want two things: To end warfare with all the states and to set up a partnership of peace and not compulsory arbitration of former conflicts.

[DAVAR] Will you have enough time to present a new geopolitical situation prior to the next elections?

[Peres] We will not present a new geopolitical situation, we will recognize the existing geopolitical situation. Borders and one kilometer more or less will not decide our fate. What will decide it will be if we have an early warning system, nonaggression pacts, agreements giving warning of false alarms, and accords on arms limitations with mutual supervision.

[DAVAR] Has there been progress in the contacts with Syria on those issues?

[Peres] Nothing has begun yet with Syria. There has been an improvement in the atmosphere, but there are still no negotiations. What the Syrians have to understand is that what is at stake is not only peace between states, but between peoples. In other words, we have to convince our people, and the Syrians have to convince theirs, that there is something to talk about.

[DAVAR] How do you convince your people?

[Peres] I tell them what I think. Persuasion is done by explaining the situation and by actions. Sometimes the action precedes the explanation and sometimes the reverse. The big problem is to convince yourself and then to convince others. I do not understand why no one is reading the writing on the walls. Ask the Likud what it is offering. We have now concluded the issue of Gaza, thank God, which is good news. From here we have to go on to Syria, and then return to the West Bank.

[DAVAR] Interlinked negotiations?

[Peres] No, each separately. [passage omitted]

Knesset Member Views Violence, Peace Process

NC1404083494 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, Israeli Knesset member and leader of the Arab Democratic Party, in Jerusalem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on 14 April, from the "Dialogue From Afar" Program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Let us begin with yesterday's fedayeen operation carried out by the Hamas and al-Jihad movements and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements that he will not let the perpetrators wreck the Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts. Let us begin with a glance at current incidents in the occupied territories and their link with Israel's slowness in implementing the Gaza-Jericho accord.

[Darawshah] The recent incidents that claimed the lives of innocent Palestinian and Israeli people are regrettable and painful. The criminal acts carried out by the settlers in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron and other regrettable incidents that followed and led to the fall of martyrs from our Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza have escalated the situation. This took place against a background of tangible slowness in implementing the Gaza-Jericho accord and the Oslo accord, responsibility for which lies with the Israeli Government, particularly the prime minister.

In general, we can say that these incidents carried out by Israeli or Palestinian extremists aim to undermine the peace process. Acts carried out by Jewish settlers or the Israeli army are reciprocated with retaliatory measures by Palestinian elements. What links the Israeli and Palestinian extremists is their desire to end the peace process and preclude any progress. The Palestinian elements say the Oslo accord is not enough and do not want it implemented, while the Israeli extremists consider the Oslo accord a betrayal of Jews in Israel and do not want to give up an inch of occupied Arab land. Hence, they do their utmost to undermine this accord. I believe the Israeli Government and the PLO, the Israeli and Palestinian peoples, and the entire region's nations have a mutual interest in stopping the massacres, repressive measures, hostile acts against civilians, advancing the peace process, and implementing the accord. This is the real test of Rabin's government now.

[Al-Jundi] Yesterday's fedayeen operation was supposed to coincide with the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho on 13 April. It came in light of Israeli statements, especially by the first man in the Israeli Government—I mean Yitzhaq Rabin—that the withdrawal dates are not sacred. Does this mean a direct answer to the Israeli slowness and continuing evasion of commitments?

[Darawshah] We want the Israeli Government to adhere to the accord and the Israeli Army to withdraw immediately from Gaza and Jericho and from all the occupied Arab territories. This is our principled stance. Those who commit such acts aim to destroy the entire peace process. They do not want to encourage the Israeli Government to implement the accord but want to end the peace process.

We strongly condemned the massacre at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque and the painful incidents against Israeli civilians in 'Afula and Hadera. These acts harm relations between the two peoples, hurt the peace process, and intensify the old enmity in the region. We must work to curb these acts and advance the peace process to achieve Arab rights. Only through a peace agreement can the Palestinian people achieve their national legitimate rights. The main solution is a peace agreement ensuring an end to the occupation and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. When we say an end to occupation, we mean the removal of Israel's occupation of all the Arab territories in the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan, south Lebanon, and the occupied Jordanian territory.

Israel must know that the Palestinians are a struggling people, eager for their freedom and independence, and cannot accept the continuation of occupation. The Israeli Government must realize that as long as the occupation continues, violence and resistance will continue and innocent victims from both peoples will continue to fall. The key is in the hand of the Israeli Government. I hope this government and the Israeli public will wake up and realize that continuing occupation means continuing bloodshed on both sides. One side cannot keep everything it wants and continue the occupation without expecting resistance from the other, the Palestinians.

[Al-Jundi] The Israeli Knesset, of which you are a member, can put pressure on the Israeli Government, although the ruling Labor Party enjoys a majority in the Knesset. How can the Knesset and the Israeli public pressure Yitzhaq Rabin and his government?

[Darawshah] Regrettably, the recent painful incidents in both 'Afula and Hadera in the past few days in which innocent people were killed and scores were injured boosted the rightist forces on the Israeli street. The Israelis reacted negatively to these incidents. This puts great pressure on the Israeli Government concerning the peace process. Even in the Knesset, the right-wing trend has gained ground. Although the government retains the majority in the Knesset, the rightists, primarily the Likud Party, have intensified their attack against the government, accusing it of adopting a weak position toward the Palestinians and of encouraging terrorism. These acts backfire on the Palestinian people and on the peace process. I do not believe that the killing of more citizens, Arabs or Jews, will resolve the conflict in the region. The solution must be peaceful and the Israeli Government must work to withdraw immediately from Gaza and Jericho and allow the PLO to assume Palestinian sovereignty on Palestinian territory there. Agreement on the permanent solution, not only the interim one, must also be accelerated.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you.

[Darawshah] You are welcome.

Terrorist Said Among Casualties of Hadera Attack

TA1304154094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Six people were killed this morning and 30 others wounded in a bomb explosion aboard a bus in Hadera. Among the six killed was apparently the terrorist himself. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has claimed responsibility and says more attacks can be expected. Most of those hurt sustained light injuries, and most of those have already been released from hospital. In Hadera demonstrators protested against the violence and government policy. [passage omitted]

Settlers Decide To Conduct Independent Patrols

TA1204164494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Settlers in the Ma'ale Efrayim local council decided, as of today, to begin conducting car patrols and lookout posts on vehicles and people traveling on the road from Ma'ale Efrayim to the Tapuah junction. Council head Hayim Aviv informed the commander of the Central Command and the commander of the Judaea and Samaria Division that the decision was made in the wake of an increase in hostile activities against Israelis on this road. According to Aviv, the settlers are not getting appropriate protection from the Israeli Defense Forces. This is reported by our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman.

King Affirms Principles of Peace Talks Position

JN1304184894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said Jordan's participation in the peace process emanated from Jordan's belief in, and firm conviction about, the need to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in this region, whose peoples suffered from the causes of tension and conflict throughout past decades. He warned against serious difficulties and obstacles facing the peace process.

His majesty also said failure to achieve a real breakthrough on the path to a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region will result in a state of frustration and tension that will lead to violence. He called on the states concerned with achieving peace and stability in this region to make further efforts in order to promote this process and enable it to achieve its objectives.

His majesty pointed to the constant principles of the Jordanian position on the peace process, based on implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and extending all assistance and support to the Palestinian brethren to enable them to achieve their rights on their national soil.

His majesty's remarks came during his reception of the information mission for fact-finding in the Middle East at the Royal Hashemite Court today. This mission comprises representatives of media and press bodies from various world states.

At the beginning of the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn welcomed the members of the mission, and briefed them on the dimensions of the democratic and developmental Jordanian march and Jordan's achievements, which are appreciated and admired by everyone. The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, his majesty the king's political adviser; and Muhammad Rasul al-Kilani and Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, advisers to his majesty the king.

'Threats' To Boycott Peace Talks Taken Seriously

JN1304141294 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 13 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] On the eve of the 20 April visit to the United States by His Royal Highness Prince Hasan, AL-BILAD has learned from reliable sources in Washington that the U.S. Administration is taking Jordanian threats to boycott the talks seriously. AL-BILAD has learned that the United States will agree, during their meeting with Prince Hasan, to the inspection of al-'Aqabah-bound ships inside the port by Lloyds, not the U.S. Navy. AL-BILAD has also learned that the resumption of the [Arab-Israeli] talks and the expansion of participation in the multilateral talks will be raised by the United States during the talks.

Meanwhile, Jordanian officials say that holding the talks the way the Israelis want is rejected by the Jordanians, because this is intended to bypass the agenda in order to postpone priority issues. Furthermore, the Israeli request to sign a peace treaty with Jordan before discussing substantial issues, such as borders, refugees, and water, is considered impossible by the Jordanian leadership. This, consequently, will not make Prince Hasan's U.S. visit at all easy.

U.S. Said Pressuring Attendance at Multilaterals

JN1404100494 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 14 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Sources at the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs have revealed that Jordan is coming under U.S. pressure to take part in the multilateral negotiations, two committees of which will meet in Muscat on 17 April and Doha later this month.

The sources added: The Jordanian position announced by His Majesty King Husayn has made Jordan's continued engagement in the peace talks contingent upon easing or ending the al-'Aqabah blockade. His majesty the king also said that the Jordanian participation in the talks will be token pending a resolution of this issue. Consequently, Jordan will send observers to the talks.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' also learned that Jordan has definitely decided not to participate in the meetings of the working group on water sharing, which will begin in Muscat on 17 April. The sources added that the Jordanian participation in the talks will be actual, rather than token if the U.S. position improves before the convening of the Muscat meetings, and if Jordan realizes that measures will actually be taken to end or ease the blockade.

Moreover, AKHBAR AL-USBU' also learned that Jordan's position toward participation in the Doha meetings of the working group on arms control due to convene on 24 April is the same as its position toward participation in the Muscat meetings, and that Jordan is making its continued actual participation in the peace process meetings contingent upon a solution to the problem of the blockade enforced against the Gulf of Aqaba.

Authorities Detain 10 Planning 'Terrorist Acts'

JN1304142694 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Apr 94 pp 1, 21

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—Competent security authorities have managed to apprehend 10 persons on charges of setting up an "Islamic" organization in order to carry out terrorist acts inside the Kingdom.

Security sources explained that the group, led by a 38-year person, met in an Amman neighborhood. It had prepared a phased plan to execute its operations.

Under the first phase of its plan, the sources indicated, the group would do anything to collect money. Therefore, it carried out armed robberies against a number of shops and taxi drivers in the capital.

The sources added that the second phase was aimed at carrying out robberies against some commercial banks in Amman. The group kept a special record of banks against which armed robberies had been planned.

The sources explained that during the third phase they would use the stolen money to purchase weapons. The sources explained that the robberies were still in their initial stages, during which light weapons were used and tear gas was used against taxi drivers.

The sources said the first phase of the operation was successful. Members of the group managed to attack some taxi drives and to burglarize some shops. However, having monitored their movements, the security authorities arrested the thieves and uncovered other members of the organization and their objectives.

The sources stressed that members of the armed group have been placed under intensive interrogation. They will be referred to specialized courts. Public trials will be held to acquaint the public with the robberies that had been carried out.

Hamas Operations Against Israel Said To Continue

JN1404105394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Apr 94 pp 1, 22

["Political Analysis" column by Mazin Hammad: "Two Out of Five"]

[Text] It is unprecedented for an Israeli official like Yitzhaq Rabin to clearly state that there is no future for the settlements in the occupied territories. Here he is promising to remove the settlements within the framework of a final settlement. He would not have said this if it was not for the collapse of security Israel has been facing since the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre on 25 February. That massacre opened the doors of revenge in Palestine like never before. With bloody evidence, the massacre proved the impossibility of coexistence between Arabs and Jews on one territory. Rabin is fully aware of this result, which was in his mind when he told the settlers yesterday that eventually they will have to leave.

The martyrdom operation in Hadera shook the faith of the settlers in the possibility of staying in the West Bank and Gaza and increased their motivation to pack their belongings and dismantle their settlements. The timing of this operation was well studied just like the timing of the 'Afula operation which was carried out by Hamas a week ago, killing 13 Israelis and wounding scores more.

The first operation marked 40 days since the martyrs of Hebron. The second was carried out on Israeli Army day. It is noteworthy that Hamas had previously vowed to carry out five operations. This means that there are three operations on the way.

Such operations not only remove the Israelis' sense of security, but also reveal the impossibility of controlling a decision by a movement such as Hamas to achieve martyrdom. Moreover, as Rabin and Peres said yesterday, it is impossible to seal the occupied territories when everyday, 10,000 cars come from the West bank and Gaza to Palestine of 1948.

However, the more important question posed by the 'Afula and Hadera operations is whether Israel has learned its lesson and is now ready to achieve serious progress in the bilateral negotiations with the Palestinians and other Arab parties. It is totally clear that the Ibrahami Mosque massacre and the aforementioned operations would not have occurred if Israel had committed itself to starting withdrawal from "Gaza and Jericho First" on 13 December as scheduled and completing this withdrawal on 13 April; that is, yesterday.

Will 1.7 million Palestinians remain the prisoners of a few thousand settlers, or must there be more martyrdom operations before Israel sees the road in front of it?!

Weekly Sees Successful Husayn-'Arafat Meeting

JN1304181194 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 13 Apr 94 p 3

["Exclusive" AL-BILAD report]

[Text] Contrary to all the press reports indicating the failure of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Amman last week, AL-BILAD sources stress that the opposite took place.

These reliable sources asserted that the understanding shown at the Jordanian-Palestinian summit reaffirmed that bilateral relations are strong and that the option chosen by the Jordanian and Palestinian sides is correct. This summit also revived the coordination issue in a stronger and wider manner which, at the end of the talks, resulted in crystallizing the work of the four joint bilateral committees, the Jerusalem, refugee, economic, and administrative committees. The work of these committees is related to the transfer of authority and powers to the Palestinian authority's institutions on the territory from which the Israelis will withdraw.

King Husayn received Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] with fraternal warmth reflecting Jordan's decision to stand firmly alongside the PLO and its options for several reasons, according to King Husayn.

King Husayn also said: We share the same fate, suffering, and aspirations. We are looking forward to the success of your endeavors, exactly like you are doing. The triumph of the Palestinian position and the removal of occupation are a strength for Jordan and a protection for its internal security. The more stable the region, whose basis is Palestine, the more stable our internal situation."

Continuing to address his Palestinian guest, King Husayn said: We also share looking forward to Jerusalem. This is because our loss of Jerusalem is a loss of future visions and a pain felt in our heart. Thus, we share with you looking forward to achieving a victorious return for you and ourselves for the sake of Jerusalem.

Therefore, brother Abu-'Ammar, let no information be borne in your mind that may point to the opposite of what I am saying. This is because tendentious parties are trying to infiltrate into the sources of our information in order to instill doubts and suspicion between us. In view of facts, developments, and the current balance of powers, the source of our strength lies in mutual understanding between us.

The other party still tries to undermine our belief in what we feel is just and correct. This is taking place through two known ways: Pressures and temptations. Pressures are declared and tangible, and God is helping us endure them, while temptations have effects which are no less important than those of pressures in terms of canceling debts, extending aid, and other temptations. The demand is clear, and is represented by two headlines, namely, a peace treaty with Israel before Israel pays the requisites of peace to the Arab side, particularly the Palestinian side; and changing the agenda signed in Washington by addressing the easier issues before the more difficult ones. They [the Israelis] want to reach an understanding on environmental, trade, and other issues before reaching an agreement on substantive issues such as the territories, borders, water, and refugees. Therefore, we still reject this.

In his remarks, which were made in the presence of the members of the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations, King Husayn continued: You reached the Oslo agreement without our knowledge. The same can be said of the Cairo agreement, the Security Council resolution [No. 904], and other developments. However, despite our reservations, we supported you in the Oslo, Washington, and Cairo agreements, as well as Resolution 904. Our sole objective in all that is to spare you any problems, show that the Arab front is unified, and to support the Palestinian interpretation of the agreements. Therefore, it is preferable if there is prior understanding, coordination, and consultation.

He added: We understand that coordination, understanding, and consultation should take place before agreements are reached with the other side. Our institutions, archives, and expertise are at your disposal, so you can attain the best results. We seek coordination, understanding, and consultation so you will hear our point of view, but not necessarily adopt it. If our point of view proves sound and you adopt it, this is good; if not, no harm will be done, God willing.

King Husayn said: Regarding the media, I have heard that you are upset. So are we, but we cannot abandon our democratic option. It is part of our domestic security. It protects us. Therefore, we should be patient and accept the price. See if brother Abu-Samir [Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-salam al-Majali] can do something about the media, with which I personally expressed dissatisfaction.

I am looking forward to the creation of joint committees or the activation of the existing ones in the hope that they specify the mechanism for dealing with joint responsibilities and daily affairs.

With his known frankness, King Husayn told the Palestinian president and delegation: We receive worrisome reports about you and your fears. But rest assured, we pay no attention to such reports. It is in our joint interest not to let doubts creep into our souls. I have informed the Syrian and other brothers that we have no interest in weakening the PLO. Rather, it is in our interest to support and strengthen the PLO. Weakening it will impose on us an unbearable responsibility. The Palestinian people and their representatives should choose the way that will safeguard the Palestinian people's rights, interests, and aspirations.

Concluding his remarks to President 'Arafat, king Husayn said: Brother Abu-'Ammar, we appreciate your efforts and sacrifices. May God support you. It is God who grants success.

A senior Palestinian official who took part in the meeting said the Husayn-'Arafat meeting reflected hope and aspiration for a better future for the coming generations. He said: Abu-'Ammar emerged from the meeting more confident about what should be done. The official stressed that the Jordanian-Palestinian summit meeting will be reflected positively on the joint committees' performance, and that its positive results will appear soon.

Austrian President Offers Mediation in Middle East

AU1304143994 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 13 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Christian Hoffmann: "Husayn Warns Against Middle East Disaster"]

[Text] Jordanian King Husayn has warned against a disaster in the Middle East peace process. On the occasion of a joint news conference with Austrian President Thomas Klestil, the Jordanian ruler deplored that the peace talks are stagnating.

President Klestil, who is paying a three-day official visit to Jordan, affirmed again to his hosts that Austria is prepared to develop its economic aid to this region, as soon as the situation has stabilized. Klestil, who will travel to Israel as early as this summer, offered Austria's mediation. Since the complete normalization of relations with Jerusalem, Austria's opportunities on the diplomatic level have increased. Klestil's visit will be the first of an Austrian head of state.

Moreover, in his speech at the state banquet in the Basman Palace, the president announced that a conference for communication between representatives of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism will be held in Vienna in December. He pointed out that about 250,000 Muslims are currently living in Austria, among them are about 70,000 refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

On Tuesday, the second day of his visit, the president traveled to Um Qais in the Jordan Valley. Before that, he had laid wreaths at the tombs of King 'Abdallah and King Talal. Afterward, a reception for the Austrian colony in Jordan was on the agenda. Today, Wednesday, is devoted to a visit to the archaeological finds in Petra. Afterward, the president will return to Vienna.

In the next few days, Austria will present four ambulance cars, three water tanks, and two emergency aid vehicles to the Jordanian Civil Defense Authority. An additional delivery of six fire trucks will conclude a relief program that continued the help for the states affected by the Gulf war in 1993 and as part of which goods valued at 100 million schillings have been supplied. Moreover, Austria will reorganize the school of hotel management in Amman. In addition, Austrian companies are active in the fields of telecommunications and water economy.

Klestil Departs Amman After Visit

JN1304154594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn saw off His Excellency Austrian President Thomas Klestil and his delegation when they departed Amman this afternoon, concluding an official three-day visit to the Kingdom.

During the visit, the Austrian president held talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior officials. The talks focused on several regional and international issues of common interest, developments in the Middle East peace process, and the distinguished relations between the two friendly countries. His excellency also visited several cultural landmarks in Jordan.

The Austrian president was also seen off by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and a number of senior officials.

Prince Hasan Meets Turkish Foreign Ministry Official

JN1304195194 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1920 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan conferred with the Turkish Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ozdem Sanberk on Jordanian-Turkish ties and regional issues. Prince Hasan spoke about Jordan's interest in the peace process and the effects of the blockade on the Port of al-'Aqabah on the Jordanian economy.

South African Foreign Ministry Official Arrives

JN1404062794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Derek William Auret, head of the Africa and Middle East Desk at the South African Ministry of Foreign Affairs, arrived in Amman today on a visit to Jordan lasting three days. During the visit, he will meet with Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs. He will also hold talks on regional developments and bilateral relations.

He was welcomed by the head of the Political Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the South African charge d'affaires in Amman.

Decree Calls For Extraordinary Parliament Session

JN1304140994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] A royal decree was issued today calling on parliament to begin an extraordinary session on Sunday, 17 April 1994. The decree encompasses the approval of several laws and some of the committees' reports and a discussion of reports by the Audit Bureau.

Dignitaries To Gather 18 Apr for Unveiling Ceremony

JN1404112694 Amman THE STAR in English 14-20 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Amman (Star)—Dignitaries from across the Muslim world are gathering in Amman for a ceremony on Monday [18 April] to mark completion of restoration work on one of Islam's holiest sites.

Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock has received a new veneer of gold as part of a two-year renovation project. His Majesty King Husayn paid $8.25 million for the restoration.

The official opening ceremony is scheduled to take place at al-Madinah al-Riyadiyah (Sports City) sport center in Amman at 11 am [0800 GMT].

After a speech from His Majesty, the covering of the shrine will be removed and the Dome of the Rock will be officially reopened. Due to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, none of the attendants will actually see the Dome of the Rock first hand. Instead, Jordan TV will transmit the unveiling via satellite from Jerusalem in the first ever live broadcast from the Occupied Territories. Jordan Radio will also cover the unveiling.

Iraqi Diplomats Arrested for Opposition Figure's Murder

Diplomats Identified

JN1304183594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] An authoritative source announced in Beirut that two Iraqi diplomats were arrested in Beirut today on suspicion of killing Iraqi opposition figure Talib al-Suhayl yesterday. The source added that the two diplomats are the economic attache at the Iraqi Embassy Khalid Khalaf and the cultural attache Muhammad Kazim. The two diplomats have been working in Beirut since August 1992. An embassy guard, who is on the run, is also a suspect. Sources at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry said that diplomatic immunity does not prevent apprehension for interrogation.

In a statement to AFP, 'Awwad Fakhri, Iraqi charge d'affaires in Beirut, said he is not aware of these facts and that he has officially informed the Lebanese Foreign Ministry that two Iraqi diplomats have not reported to work.

Slain Iraqi opposition figure Talib al-Suhayl, 70, had lived in Lebanon for many years, held Jordanian and Saudi passports, and was married to a Lebanese woman. He was shot dead in his house in Beirut by a gun equipped with a silencer.

Murder Threatens Embassy With Closure

JN1404063994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Report by Antoine Constantine in Beirut]

[Text] Following the assassination of Talib al-Suhayl, an Iraqi Opposition figure residing in Beirut, reports in the Lebanese capital speak of a crisis in the Iraqi-Lebanese relations. Some went so far as to say that the Lebanese Government intends to close down the Iraqi Embassy and deport the Iraqi diplomats.

Pending the political results of the assassination, we review the security information connected with the murder. Al-Suhayl was killed in his house the day before yesterday. The investigation judge in Beirut issued arrest warrants against Khalid Khalaf, the commercial counsellor, and Muhammad Kazim, the cultural counsellor. Another arrest warrant was also issued against a third individual who reportedly participated in carrying out the murder and subsequently took refuge in the embassy.

After learning of the the involvement of two Iraqi diplomats in the operation, the security forces laid an invisible siege around the embassy and arrested Khalaf and Kazim and found weapons, pistols, and silencers in their possession.

'Awad Fakhri, the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Lebanon, who was summoned to the Foreign Ministry, said: The foreign minister informed me of the incident. We support the Lebanese authorities and we respect the Lebanese judiciary.

Fakhri denied that he had known that the dead man was an Iraqi national.

Talib al-Suhayl was one of the chiefs of the Iraqi shiite tribe of Tamim. He left Iraq after the 1958 revolution and sought refuge in Jordan and then in Saudi Arabia. This explains why he carries Jordanian and Saudi passports. His name was mentioned in a number of papers a few weeks ago as having been involved in an attempt to assassinate President Saddam Husayn.

The Foreign Ministry is considering ways to deal with this issue from the diplomatic viewpoint because the arrested diplomats enjoy diplomatic immunity. It has been learned that, as a precautionary measure, the Lebanese Embassy's charge d'affaires in Baghdad has been summoned to Beirut and has already left the Iraqi capital.

Further on Moves Following Arrests

NC1404103494 Paris AFP in English 0946 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Report by Hala Boncompagni]

[Text] Beirut, April 14 (AFP)—Lebanon has recalled its only diplomat in Baghdad and is considering lifting the immunity of two Iraqi envoys suspected of killing an Iraqi dissident here, a government official told AFP Thursday [14 April].

The official who declined to be named also said Iraq's commercial attache Khalid Khalaf and cultural attache Muhammad Kazim allegedly told police that they gunned down Talib al-Suhayl [al-Tamimi] at his Beirut home on Baghdad's orders.

A third suspect in Tuesday's killing, an Iraqi embassy guard, was reported to be on the run.

Lebanon has summoned its acting charge d'affaires in Iraq, Sa'd Zakhiyah, to return to Beirut for consultations and he was expected to arrive later Thursday.

The official told AFP the cabinet approved on Wednesday a proposal by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz to consider depriving the diplomats of their immunity from prosecution.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf tried telephoning Buwayz on Wednesday but could not speak to him because his Lebanese counterpart was attending the weekly cabinet meeting, the official added.

Iraqi opposition groups denounced al-Suhayl's killing in statements to AFP.

Al-Suhayl, who was in his 70s, had lived in Beirut for several years and held both Jordanian and Saudi passports.

The outlawed al-Da'awah al-Islamiyah urged the Lebanese authorities to take all the necessary steps to punish the killers "particularly because we have information that the Iraqi intelligence services have plans to kill (other) dissidents in Lebanon and in other countries in the region."

The al-Da'awah also urged the Lebanese authorities to protect Iraqi dissidents living in Lebanon.

The London-based Free Iraqi Council opposition group said al-Suhayl was a distinguished opposition figure extremely active in trying to bring about change in Iraq."

He was involved with a group of senior Iraqi officers and officials from Tikrit and Mosul in a plot to topple Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, the group said.

It also charged that the US intelligence service CIA was implicated in al-Suhayl's assassination.

The CIA has turned down his request for help in plotting Saddam's downfall and probably betrayed him, the Free Iraqi Council said.

"The CIA must have passed on the information to Saddam Husayn who went on to assassinate hundreds of army officers and other figures in July 1993," it said.

According to officials al-Suhayl was killed Tuesday night by a man who knocked on his door pretending to be a delivery boy. When al-Suhayl appeared the killer pulled out a gun with a silencer and shot him dead.

Security forces staked out the Iraqi embassy in the northern suburbs at dawn and arrested two diplomats as they arrived. The Iraqis were carrying guns which may have been used in the killing.

Iraqi charge d'affaires 'Awwad Fakhri was summoned Wednesday to the Lebanese foreign ministry but he told reporters he was not aware of the facts.

Iraqi Embassy Asked To Lift Immunity

NC1404105994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] The Lebanese Foreign Ministry today officially asked the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut to lift the immunity of the two diplomats accused of killing Shaykh Talib al-Suhayl. The Iraqi Embassy meanwhile demanded that the two diplomats be released because they enjoy diplomatic immunity.

Iraqi Charge D'affaires 'Awad Fakhri has been summoned by the Foreign Ministry to meet Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan. The Iraqi diplomat has already arrived at the Foreign Ministry.

'Fundamentalist' Sentenced for Killing Diplomat

NC1404063094 Paris AFP in English 2153 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Beirut, April 13 (AFP)—A Muslim fundamentalist who said he had orders "to kill any Frenchman" was sentenced to a life term of hard labor Wednesday [13 April] for the 1986 murder of a French diplomat, the state-run news agency NNA [NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY] said.

The defendant, Hasan Muhammad Tulays, a corporal in the Lebanese army and member of Islamic Resistance, a paramilitary wing of the pro-Iranian group Hizballah, had confessed to the killing.

He testified that at the time of the shooting of Christian Gouttiere [name as received], the military attache at the French embassy, he had "received an order to kill any French person".

The military court that sentenced Tulays rejected his lawyer's appeal for amnesty, saying that to do so could damage relations between France and Lebanon.

Under a law passed in 1991, the death penalty in Lebanon was replaced by a sentence of life at hard labor.

An alleged accomplice of Tulays, Munzir Rammal, tried in absentia, got the same sentence.

Tulays was 26 at the time of the shooting.

Gouttiere, 54, was shot in the head three times in a Christian suburb of Beirut, near the French embassy.

Minister Dallul Denies Extradition Request for 'Awn

NC1304175694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has denied that there are differences within the government, indicating that there are only various views, something that is natural and always results in a consensus. He said rumors on this are attempts to sow discord and undermine the government. He said he expected a Lebanese-Syrian summit soon.

Answering questions from Editors Association Doyen Milhim Karam, Minister Dallul explained that the investigation into the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church is being handled by the judiciary and is continuing. An indictment is expected soon. [passage omitted]

Regarding the issue of Gen. Michel 'Awn, Dallul said French officials have expressed their disappointment with his violation of the agreement that was sponsored by France. He added that the Lebanese Government has not demanded his extradition because Lebanon's problems are much more important than Michel 'Awn. Dallul said the amnesty law contains certain conditions to which Gen. 'Awn must adhere. If 'Awn continues to violate these conditions, the amnesty law will no longer apply to him. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah on Pope's Postponement of Visit

NC1304180394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has affirmed that the postponement of the pope's visit to Lebanon is related to divergent policies in the region. These policies are linked more to international factors than to internal Lebanese factors. He added that if the pope had come to this country, we would have welcomed him. We welcome all Lebanon's guests, more so the pope because he espouses the issue of coexistence. However, since he will not come, he knows better the justifications that have prompted him to postpone the visit.

Fadlallah said the situation in Lebanon requires it to be an oasis of freedom so that the region's problems can be aired in Lebanon. Freedom will survive but it might receive some scratches, depending on the political conditions outside Lebanon.

Hizballah's Qasim Raps Cabinet's Decision on Media

NC1404131194 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 1 Apr 94 p 6

[Text] Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim has stated that the Cabinet's decision banning radio and television networks from broadcasting news is unfair, reckless, and irrational. This decision does not respect the citizen's rights, Shaykh Qasim added.

Shaykh Qasim urged the officials to reverse their decision and to find the right path to overcome this crisis. He noted that the government must work out the proper legislation.

In a statement to AKHBAR AL-YAWM news agency, Shaykh Qasim said that Lebanon is a country of rights and it cannot live without them. We have cooperated with all parties so that peace will prevail and so the logic of one's word and truth will replace the language of arms, Shaykh Qasim said.

In his statement, the Hizballah official maintained that the pretexts used are absolutely invalid, because the country's security cannot be jeopardized by a word or a statement. Rather, security is threatened by the tools of destruction. He added: The officials must curb those who disturb the internal situation and do things harmful to the citizens' interests. But to stifle all voices under various pretexts is unacceptable and runs counter to the freedom of expression, which must be enjoyed by all Lebanese citizens. He pointed out that the unanimous denunciation by almost all factions is unequivocal evidence that the cabinet's step is wrong.

Shaykh Qasim continued that if this step is a prelude to more stringent steps, the government's monopolization of the radio and television media, or a prelude to restricting the freedom of the press it will have no positive results nor promote freedom and peace in this country. Therefore, no side can impose its opinions on others, not even the authorities backed by the law. This is because the laws and authority in Lebanon are committed to safeguarding the people's freedoms.

Shaykh Qasim said that the three-year delay in issuing the law on organizing the media is irrational. He noted that there are various whimsical attitudes to limiting the freedom of expression.

Asked whether the officials support freedom of expression in the country, Shaykh Qasim said that many people seek to impose the law of the jungle in which some people would dominate politically, economically, and militarily. These people also want to manipulate the freedoms to enable them gain control.

Asked whether the Hizballah deputies would heed his opinion and defend it in the Chamber of Deputies, Shaykh Qasim said: Certainly; because they are committed to defend the party and the people. He expressed readiness to coordinate with all the media.

Sa'adah Urges Restoring Political Programs to Media

NC1404154794 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 12 Apr 94 p 3

[Excerpt] Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah has affirmed the need to speed up investigations and reveal the perpetrators of the two crimes at the Sayyidat al-Najat Church and the Phalangist Party headquarters. He pointed out that the battle over freedoms has started and will not end until positive results are achieved, which can only take place through the restoration of newscasts and political programs to the audio and visual media.

During the expanded Phalangist Party meeting that was held yesterday at party headquarters, Sa'adah said: During the al-Ta'if meetings, the issue of these varied and numerous media was presented. But the decision was made then to cancel all the militias, while there was no mention of canceling the media, but of reorganizing it. [passage omitted]

Justice Minister Denies Human Rights Violations

NC1204200994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Justice Minister Bahij Tabbarah has sent a message to Amnesty International urging it to check the reliability of its news sources. He rejected the organization's accusation that Lebanon has violated human rights and said Amnesty International has been the victim of deception and has received inaccurate information from sources that want to slander Lebanon.

Minister Tabbarah said all arrests in Lebanon are carried out according to the law and that suspects are defended by lawyers and are never ill-treated.

Minister Tabbarah called on Amnesty International not to hesitate to ask the concerned Lebanese authorities before disseminating any information about Lebanon to its member states.

Radio Reports Israeli Bus Blast in Hadera

JN1304191894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Occupied Palestine—The Israeli bus blast in Hadera, north of Tel Aviv, this morning has left six Israelis dead and injured about 30 others, some seriously. Israeli Police Chief Rafi Peled declared that a suicide operation was behind the bus blast. The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions—the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas—claimed the operation. It stressed that these operations are to avenge the martyrs of the Hebron massacre. The operation also came one week after the 'Afula martyrdom operation that left seven Israelis dead.

Commentary: Hadera Shows Palestinian Determination

JN1304170594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1610 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary from the "Palestine Broadcast"]

[Text] After the 'Afula and Ashdod operations almost 10 days ago, which left dozens of Zionist settlers and troops dead and injured, today comes the Hadera operation, in the heart of 1948-occupied Palestine near Tel Aviv. This reasserts the failure of the military siege—imposed indefinitely by the occupation authorities on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip—to provide security and safety for Israelis.

Today, an explosive charge went off in an Israeli bus in Hadera near Tel Aviv. An Israeli military spokesman has admitted that five Israeli settlers were killed and 25 others were injured in the explosion. Israeli enemy radio reported that large police and Army forces rushed to the scene and started a broad combing operation in a search for the intifadah youths. The occupation forces have set up heavy roadblocks in the area and tightened suppressive measures.

The operation coincides with Israel's celebration of its proclamation on the land of Arab Palestine. It also coincides with the deadline set to implement the Oslo accord that stipulates Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

This operation, which came in the wake of the 'Afula, Ashdod and other operations, reaffirms the determination of our Palestinian Arab people to pursue their intifadah and operations all over the occupied homeland in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1948-occupied Palestine. This operation also reaffirms our people's determination to deprive the Zionist invaders of security and safety, wherever they are, all over occupied Palestine. This as long as our Palestinian Arab people are being subjected to oppression, terrorism, killing, and annihilation at the hands of the Zionist settlers and soldiers, and as long as Israel does not recognize the national rights of our people and does not withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

Turkish Interior Minister Concludes Talks, Visit

Al-Asad Receives Mentese

JN1304145294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] At 1100 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Turkish Interior Minister Nahit Mentese and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah and the Turkish ambassador in Damascus.

Mentese conveyed to President Hafiz al-Asad greetings from Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and Prime Minister Tansu Ciller. President al-Asad asked him to convey his greetings to Demirel and Ciller.

Discussions dealt with bilateral relations and cooperation within the framework of the agreements concluded between the two countries, as well as the good-neighborly relations that the two sides are eager to maintain.

Harbah, Mentese Comment on Talks

JN1404102094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday received Turkish Interior Minister Nahit Mentese and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah and the Turkish ambassador in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Official talks between the Syrian Arab side headed by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah and the Turkish side headed by Turkish Interior Minister Nahit Mentese were concluded at the Ministry of Interior yesterday afternoon in the presence of members of both delegations and the Turkish ambassador in Damascus.

Dr. Harbah delivered a speech, saying that Turkish Interior Minister Nahit Mentese asserted during the talks that Turkey recognizes that Syria and Iraq have rights to the Euphrates waters. He explained to Mentese and the delegation accompanying him Syria's views on the issue. He said that it is in nobody's interest to delay an agreement on water sharing among Turkey, Syria, and Iraq so that future generations may not be left with a disconcerting problem, and so that Syria and Turkey may launch joint projects in the areas of water, electricity, and other economic areas, something which might have a positive effect on the two neighborly and friendly countries and states.

Then, Turkish Interior Minister Mentese delivered a speech, saying: In all frankness, I would like to reiterate that there is no cause for concern regarding views that have been expressed in this regard. Today, I have been honored by the three-hour meeting I held with His

Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. I have gained experience from his excellent ideas. I am fully confident that bilateral contacts will shortly be held at the highest levels to achieve the best possible results in the fields of security, economy, and trade.

Mentese added: I would like to reiterate again that the bilateral economic, cultural, and social ties have begun to show signs of success; and this is in the interest of the two countries and peoples. We will make adequate efforts to implement the projects previously agreed on.

Mentese went on to say: Dr. Muhammad Harbah announced that Syria is eager to safeguard Turkey's security and stability just as it is eager to safeguard its own security and stability. Moreover, our views are identical on how the drug combating agreement signed by the two countries in 1966 can be promoted to render it one that meets the requirements of today's world.

At the end of the talks, a press statement was issued, explaining that the bilateral talks were permeated by a climate of amity and cordiality. [passage omitted]

Talks Conclude; Minutes Signed

JN1304201894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Official talks between the Syrian side led by Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah and the Turkish side led by Interior Minister Nahit Mentese concluded at the Interior Ministry this afternoon in the presence of members of both delegations and the Turkish ambassador in Damascus.

At the end of talks, the two sides signed joint minutes of the meetings. The minutes provide for the exchange of periodic visits, cooperation in the security field and in fighting crime and drugs. They also provide for enhancing bilateral relations and bolstering bilateral cooperation as part of the agreements signed between the two countries, as well as maintaining good neighborliness.

Harbah and Mentese exchanged cordial speeches in which they expressed pleasure for the achievements they reached on the path of joint action in an atmosphere dominated by a spirit of friendship and care for the interest of both neighborly countries. This care stems from deep-rooted historic constants, and has been enhanced by both the care and directives of the political leaderships in Syria and Turkey.

Mentese voiced pleasure for having been received by President Hafiz al-Asad. He said: I gained experience from his excellency's brilliant ideas. Mentese expressed confidence that bilateral meetings will continue at the highest levels in order to promote bilateral relations in various fields.

Both ministers expressed satisfaction with the ongoing bilateral cooperation in the security and political fields, and stressed their eagerness to continue the efforts in order to achieve the objective. Harbah presented the Interior Ministry's shield to Mentese as a gift in expression of the spirit of amity and friendship.

At the end of talks, the following press statement was issued:

At the invitation of Syrian Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah, Turkish Interior Minister Nahit Mentese paid an official visit to Syria 11-13 April 1994, leading a senior official delegation as part of the security cooperation protocol signed between the two countries in 1987.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received the guest interior minister on the morning of 13 April 1994 in the presence of Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah and the Turkish ambassador in Damascus. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam also received the Turkish interior minister and the accompanying delegation.

During the visit, several meetings were held between the Syrian and Turkish sides. An atmosphere of amity and friendship dominated the meetings in which all topics on agenda were reviewed. The Security Committee continued to discuss recent developments which will bolster understanding and promote relations in a way that serves the interest of both neighborly and friendly countries.

The two sides agreed to continue holding periodic meetings, and set May as a date to convene the Security Committee in Ankara. They stressed their eagerness to promote bilateral relations in a way that achieves security and stability and serves their common interests.

The two sides also agreed to promote bilateral cooperation in the field of fighting both crime and drugs. The [Turkish] delegation visited some ancient sites and touristic landmarks in Damascus. The Turkish interior minister invited Syrian Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah to visit Turkey leading an official delegation as part of the exchange of visits between the two ministers. Minister Harbah thankfully accepted the invitation whose date will be set later.

Mentese and the accompanying delegation left Damascus this evening following a three-day visit to Syria. During the visit, he met with President Hafiz al-Asad, and held talks with the Syrian interior minister. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah, the minister's assistants, senior Interior Ministry officers, the Turkish ambassador in Damascus, and the Turkish Embassy staff.

Outcome of Talks Reviewed

JN1404143794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Report by Sana' al-Imam from Damascus]

[Text] Well-informed Syrian sources told Radio Monte Carlo that the talks by the Turkish delegation ked by Interior Minister Nahit Mentese that ended in Damascus yesterday were successful.

According to the sources, Damascus has emphasized to the Turkish minister that Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] activities are banned in Syria where it cannot operate in public or in secret. Damascus also stressed that they have no training camps in Syria.

When the Turkish delegation referred to the possibility of the PKK's having training camps in Lebanon, the Syrian officials replied by saying Syria has exerted great efforts in cooperation with the Lebanese authorities to close the camp the Kurds had been using in Lebanon, and that the Syrian presence in Lebanon is to support and bolster the pillars of Lebanese legitimacy and attain security and stability there.

The Turkish side proposed coordination among Syria, Lebanon, and Turkey in the form of periodic meetings to discuss security affairs. The sources cited Syrian Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah as saying that Syria or any neighbor country has no interest in having sectarian activities in the region. The Syrian Government told the Turkish delegation it is worried about the infiltration of large numbers of Kurds into Syria as a result of Turkish military pressures, pointing out that the problem lies in the fact that the Syrian-Turkish borders are long and cannot be easily controlled. The sources added that Syria had reaffirmed to the Turkish side its categorical rejection of any form of terrorism. The two sides proposed expediting the study of an agreement on combating drugs. The sources said that the Turkish side praised the Syrian efforts in this respect.

Arabs Said Shocked by U.S. 'Submission' to Israel

JN1404092494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Who Is To Blame For The Disappointment?" the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Any careful examination of the peace process since its inception makes it clear that the peace process is virtually stalemated. This gives rise to questions on who is to blame for this disappointment over a process on which great hopes were pinned, and for which enormous and matchless international efforts were mobilized. The paper replies, saying that the Israeli rulers are to blame for the current stalemate in the peace talks. For the Israeli rulers have always been opposed to the peace process since its inception. They have always sought to render it void of any meaningful content during all stages of the negotiations.

The paper also holds the United States, the major cosponsor of the peace process, responsible for this stalemate in the talks, particularly since the United States has undertaken to perform the role of full partner. The paper adds that this partner has failed to use its influence and means of persuasion with the Israeli rulers. Neither has it defended the terms of reference agreed upon for the peace process.

The paper disapproves of the U.S. position that the solution should not be imposed on the negotiators, as if adherence to international legitimacy and its resolutions and the terms of reference agreed on for the peace process were tantamount to an imposition of a solution. The paper notes that the party that is not complying with international legitimacy is the one that seeks to impose its views, conditions, and wishes on all parties, including the international community.

The paper asserts that peace cannot be achieved in cellars, nor can it be achieved by noncompliance with international legitimacy and its resolutions. The peace process cannot make headway away from the agreed terms of reference.

The paper believes that those who are conspiring against the peace process by dragging one another to alleged agreements cannot inspire trust and promote confidence in their good intentions. These parties cannot respect their undertakings, pledges, and deadlines, which they daily describe as not sacred. For the only thing that is sacred to them is the perpetuation of the occupation and the usurpation of rights.

The paper adds: Given all this, Israel is to blame for the disappointment over the peace process, the disappointment that could destroy and kill the current opportunity for peace. For, the Arabs, headed by Syria, have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to just and comprehensive peace.

The paper concludes by saying: The tactics of maneuvering aimed to exhaust adversaries are doomed to failure, for there is no room for accepting Israeli dictates once the other sides are exhausted; that is, on the basis of consecrating the premise of negotiating from a position of superiority and arrogance. This game is exposed, and will always remain unacceptable.

Under the headline "Who Is To Blame?" the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Israel has managed to dilute all the momentum created during the various phases of the peace process, particularly after Syria submitted its well-known working paper to the Israeli negotiators, and made it clear, through diplomatic channels, in the bilateral talks, and via all possible media and political means, that its practical concept of peace is based on the principle of trading land for peace. A subscription by Israel to this concept must result in complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Golan Heights and southern Lebanon, and also in a recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: The entire world community has welcomed the outcome of the Geneva summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton, and deemed it a breakthrough toward the achievement of just and comprehensive in the region. But, since then, Israel has done its utmost, using all possible means of pressure, misrepresentation of facts, and blackmail on the U.S. scene, to neutralize the outcome of the Geneva summit so as to preclude the attainment by the United States of a broad-minded and proper understanding of the regional conflict. This endeavor on Israel's part was also meant to enable Israel to set loose from the United States' commitment to activate its role as an honest partner in the peace talks. This is because Israel does not want to comply with international legitimacy, and to meet the requirements of peace.

The paper says: Regrettably, the Israeli efforts on the U.S. scene have borne fruit. They have managed to portray the U.S. Administration in a way that is different from what it was in the immediate aftermath of the Geneva summit. For, truths have begun to disappear, leaving room for Israeli deception and Israeli propaganda to manage the U.S. foreign policy with regard to the Middle East and peace efforts. Perhaps, this is the most serious impasse that has faced the peace process.

The paper adds: The Arabs, who have demonstrated their good faith toward the cause of just and comprehensive peace, counted on a vigorous and active U.S. role to ensure compliance with the terms of reference agreed on for the peace process and the Madrid conference per the U.S. commitments President Clinton reiterated in Geneva. But, for now, the Arabs are shocked by the U.S. submission to the Israeli argument in contravention of all pledges and commitments.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Unless the U.S. position is freed of the Israeli attempts at containment, and unless Washington acts in line with its international commitments and responsibilities, all efforts will end in failure. For current indications do not auger well for the future if Israel fails to withdraw its troops from the Arab territories, and if just and comprehensive peace remains elusive.

India

Rao: Any Restriction on Nuclear Option 'Unacceptable'

BK1304161394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] The prime minister says any suggestion to restrict the country's nuclear option is unacceptable in view of Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear capabilities. Addressing the Army Commanders Conference in New Delhi today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said India is in favor of a time-bound universal and nondiscriminatory nuclear disarmament. He said New Delhi has always advocated peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Referring to the allegations of human rights violations, he said that anti-India forces are using these for political exploitation. Mr. Rao called upon such forces to stop maligning India on this score as New Delhi's concern for human rights is second to none. The prime minister said that the low intensity conflict sponsored by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir is a major challenge. Islamabad is sending terrorists, including foreign mercenaries, to the state, he added.

Commentary: Talbott Visit Clears Up 'Misunderstanding'

BK1304120794 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 13 Apr 94

[News Commentary by Harihar Swarup]

[Text] A major achievement of Mr. Strobe Talbott's visit to New Delhi was clearing the misunderstanding between India and America. The misunderstanding could be attributed to lopsided perception of India's policies in Washington. President Bill Clinton had deputed Mr. Strobe Talbott, the deputy secretary of state in the U.S. Administration, to visit New Delhi and remove the misunderstanding. Mr. Talbott stated in New Delhi: My government attaches considerable significance to my visit. President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher had asked me to come to India in order to consult Prime Minister Rao and other officials of the Indian Government on confidence [words indistinct] in which we can put together new impetus and new scope to U.S.-India relations.

It became clear at the end of Mr. Talbott's two-day visit that there was no American tilt toward any country and India and the United States was poised to turn a new leaf in bilateral relations. The sharp reaction evoked in India on Assistant Secretary of State Ms. Robin Raphel's controversial statement on Kashmir was more than clarified when Mr. Talbott categorically stated that it was for India and Pakistan to resolve the problem themselves in accordance with the Simla Agreement. India's concern on delivery of more F-16 aircraft was conveyed to Mr. Talbott in clear terms. The supply will be also against the goal of U.S. Government's declared policy to help in reducing tension in South Asia and discourage arms races between India and Pakistan. Mr. Talbott acknowledged at the conclusion of his visit that the greatest threat to India's security was from Pakistan's nuclear program. Then, when the United States is trying to make one-time exception to the Pressler Amendment on the ground that is further U.S. nonproliferation goals in South Asia. [sentence as heard]

Pakistan has developed nuclear weapon capability clandestinely. This is in clear violation of bilateral understanding with Washington. Earlier, the U.S. had given 40 F-16 aircraft to Pakistan as a reward for their assurance that they would not go nuclear. Now, it seems the U.S. would like to reward Islamabad with another 38 planes for having gone nuclear. Until recently, the U.S. was stating categorically that even if the Pressler Amendment was deleted, Pressler standards will continue to apply. This position was rather given up suddenly and now one-time lifting of the Pressler Amendment is being advocated. This will leave Pakistan's nuclear arsenal developed secretly intact. No longer can a case be made that these aircraft are required by Pakistan to combat communism, or the Soviet Union, or the threat to Pakistan's security from Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The sole target of U.S. supplied F-16's today can be in India. Mr. Talbott, said to be close to President Clinton, was also told that as part of the dialogue opened at India's initiative, Pakistan was urged to undertake various confidence-building measures both in conventional and nuclear fields. Both the countries have an agreement not to attack each other's nuclear installations. India has now offered Pakistan an agreement not to bomb each other's population centers and economic targets as well as an agreement not to use nuclear capabilities against each other. Pakistan is still reluctant to pursue seriously this dialogue. This attitude will undoubtedly get a boost by any U.S. decision to strengthen Pakistan's military capability against India.

Mr. Talbott appreciated India's economic reforms. The U.S. has now become the largest single investor in India. President Bill Clinton is also under pressure from powerful business lobby to ensure that the big Indian market is not jeopardized because of the political considerations. This is one reason for U.S. keenness to improve relations with India. The main irritant in Indo-U.S. relations is the issue of supply of additional F-16 planes to Pakistan. The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has said that acquisition of F-16 fighter aircraft by Pakistan would disturb the security environment and escalate tension which would lead to an arms race in the region. It appears almost certain that the prime minister will visit U.S. some time next month in response to Bill Clinton's personal invitation to him. The only hitch could be supply of F-16 planes to Pakistan.

Commentary Views Talbott's Regional Visits

BK1204122694 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Commentary by H.S. Rao of PTI]

[Text] A great deal of importance was attached to the visit of the U.S. deputy secretary of state, Mr. Strobe Talbott, to India and Pakistan. In New Delhi, the first (?stop) on his first foreign trip as U.S. deputy secretary of state, Strobe Talbott has had cordial and frank exchange of views with Indian leaders, including the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. During the discussions spreading over two days, Indian leaders conveyed India's concern on the proposed U.S. move to transfer F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. There were even indications that the U.S. persistence with the supply could cast a cloud over the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao's visit to Washington.

As New Delhi sees it, F-16's would adversely affect the strategic balance against it in the region, forcing India to take appropriate measures diverting the much-needed resources from economic welfare programs and setting back the process of economic reforms. The future course of Indo-U.S. relations, it was clear, would be shaped by Washington's response to India's concern. As expected, Mr. Talbott defended the U.S. proposal in his talks at various levels, the ground that it was linked with the nuclear nonproliferation obligations on the part of Islamabad and that the aircraft would be transferred only if Pakistan agreed to verifiable cap on the production of weapon grade material. [sentence as heard] However, he told his hosts in New Delhi that he had noted India's strong views.

During the talks, Mr. Talbott was plainly told of the prevailing popular sentiment in India against the U.S. tilt toward Pakistan in [word indistinct] of the cold war attitude. India as was told did not like third parties to look for equality, parity, or balance between India and Pakistan. The territorial integrity of the country would not be sacrificed, the Indian side said, while emphasizing that Jammu and Kashmir was part of India. Mr. Talbott dealt with the tilt perception at his press conference. As he put it, the very word tilt belongs to the vocabulary of the past and specifically to the vocabulary of the cold war. The U.S. has good relations with a number of countries in the area—certainly with India and certainly with Pakistan. On Kashmir, the position of Clinton administration, he said, is very simple and consistent. The United States hopes very much that India and Pakistan will be able to resolve this matter themselves as per the Simla Agreement.

Forty-seven year-old Talbott, a former TIME magazine editor and columnist, is a close friend of President Clinton. They shared a room as Rhodes scholars at Oxford University a quarter century ago. When Clinton visited Washington as governor of Arkansas, he often stayed at Talbott's home. One of the Talbott's assignments was to remove the sense of frustration in Indo-U.S. relations. After his one-hour long discussions with the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, Mr. Talbott observed that no one person (?is fit) to bring about better understanding and cooperation between India and the U.S. than Mr. Rao himself. He also announced that Mr. Rao has accepted in principle an invitation to visit the United States and Mr. Clinton looks forward to receiving Mr. Rao to make the most of what the two countries have in common. This itself is an indication of the positive aspect. But the same cannot be said about Mr. Talbott's diplomatic mission to Islamabad.

In Islamabad, Mr. Talbott held intensive talks with the Pakistan prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, President Farooq Leghari, and other leaders. On the whole, the talks were held in business-like fashion although cordiality and nostalgic memories of an old strategic relationship marked the discussions. Three major areas were covered. The issue of nuclear disarmament in the South Asian regional context, Kashmir, and the U.S.-Pakistan bilateral framework on the question of inspections to ensure the capping of Islamabad's nuclear armament program. A noticeable degree of convergence of objectives came into focus in respect of the U.S. proposal for multilateral forum to discuss nonproliferation in South Asia. On the other two issues, though Pakistan appeared to have given a patient hearing, no appreciation and nod from the U.S. was available. On Kashmir, he reiterated the U.S. stand that India and Pakistan should resolve it in accordance with the Simla agreement. This indicates Pakistan's failure either to secure a recognition of the linkage between Kashmir issue and nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia or to elicit a view that Kashmir, more than nuclear proliferation, is a complicating factor in this region. Mr. Talbott also refused to budge on the issue of verifiable cap on Pakistan's nuclear program and maintained that discussions would continue between the U.S. and Pakistan.

Possible Results of Rao Visit to Washington in May Analyzed

BK1204122394 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 29 Mar 94 p 12

[By Vijay Dutt]

[Text] New Delhi, March 28— Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's visit to the U.S. in early May, expected to make a significant breakthrough in the Indo-U.S. relations, is also likely to help in the projection of issues and problems of the south countries to the Clinton Administration, coming that his visit is soon after the G-15 summit in New Delhi.

A believer in a conciliatory rather than confrontationist attitude over international developmental issues, Mr. Rao, as the leading statesman from a major Third World country, will convey the conclusions at the G-15 meet to President Clinton, who has the primacy in G-7. It is expected that the two leaders would confer on the programmes of the developing countries and draw attention of the G-7 members for their coordination and collaboration on a global scale. Mr. Rao is likely to charter a closer working alliance between G-7 and G-15.

The date of the visit, tentatively fixed for May 6, will be firmed up when Mr. Strobe Talbott, number two in the State Department, comes to Delhi for discussions on

April 6 and when India's Ambassador Siddharta Shankar Ray would also be present.

Mr. Talbott is presumed to come with a better understanding of India's stand on Kashmir, its views on the proposed supply of F-16s to Pakistan, the measures taken in regard to human rights and more crucially the depth of resentment in the country at the anti-India tilt in the statements of Ms. Robin Raphel in the last few months. He is also expected to dispel the impression that Ms. Raphel is, for President Clinton the primary policy-moderator on South Asia and has prejudiced him against India.

Ms. Raphel's visit, according to sources, was basically treated at official levels, as a prelude to Mr. Talbott's, when wide-ranging discussions would be held for firming up the agenda for Mr. Rao's visit.

Refuting the criticism that too much importance was given to a junior level U.S. official and that Mr. S.B. Chavan and other senior officials bent backwards to appease Ms. Raphel, a spokesperson said that she was just given the opportunity to explain the nuances of her recent statements and posture. India's uneasiness at them was firmly conveyed to her and its impact reflected in her statement at the end of her stay here.

Ms. Raphel did attempt to erase the impression that her seemingly Pakistan bias determines America's South Asia policy. Mr. Talbott is also likely to bolster this further in an attempt to prepare positive atmosphere for Mr. Rao's Washington trip.

There is a guarded optimism on both sides regarding the visit. President Clinton, whose passion for domestic affairs borders on the frantic, is likely to strike a cordant note with Mr. Rao, who has been explicit in stressing that his economic policies are aimed at reaching the benefits of development to the underprivileged.

President Clinton too has been ambitious about his domestic agenda and been wary of letting his involvement with foreign affairs affect it. He has been, despite controversies arising over pursuing them, concentrating on health care programme and social security plans in an attempt to bring the poor into their ambit.

In his several meetings with foreign heads of state, President Clinton has shown greater keenness in discussing their development policies than international affairs. He and Mr. Rao are sure to find themselves on the same wave length when it comes to perceptions on social welfare. Their pursuit of development for the lowest layer of the social pyramid, hope officials, will be the basic meeting ground to build on the relations, presently under strain.

The Clinton Administration shaken by the Whitewater controversy and charged with nonchalance in matters relating to foreign relations, would be eager to notch a few positive conclusions from the visit. This will send the right signal to other Third World countries of Washington's serious approach for good ties and cooperation.

The Americans are aware that Mr. Rao's acceptance of their invitation is based on the sober assessment of the excellent economic relations, traditional ties in various fields and the fact that both countries share similar democratic values and respect each other's adherence to democracy.

Looking over all these positive factors, the view of those who felt that a certain coolness should be conveyed and the PM's visit kept on hold, was prevailed upon by those who firmly believed that the Prime Minister, especially after his extremely fruitful visit to the UK and India's diplomatic victory in Geneva, would surely succeed in projecting the status of Jammu and Kashmir and the steps taken for human rights to President Clinton, his senior officials and the intellectuals and opinion-makers whose views matter in Washington.

The extra-sensitive concern which the Clinton Administration is exhibiting over supposedly human rights violations is again based on the premise that it is legitimate for them to interfere in domestic human rights situation anywhere in the world. Be it Salvador or India, it considers itself perfectly justified in playing the role of a guardian of human rights. The U.S. Administration is woefully unaware of the steps taken in India for preserving human rights.

The move for the one time uplifting of the Pressler Amendment to enable the sale of F-16s to Pakistan is also a serious matter of concern to India. Senator Pressler, who is bitterly opposed to it, went public but the Administration is reportedly confident of persuading the Senate to permit the sale of 38 (instead of the earlier plan for 71), which would double the number of F-16s Pakistan has presently.

All these aspects, which have become irritants in the bilateral relations and have caused apprehension about Washington's attitude towards India are expected to be thrashed out, even if they cannot be satisfactorily resolved immediately.

Iran

Russia To Help Set Up Nuclear Plant in Bushehr

NC1304203194 Cairo MENA in English 1938 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 13 (MENA)—Iran has started setting up a nuclear power plant in Bushehr Province south of Tehran with the aid of Russian experts.

An informed Iranian source told reporters today that an agreement was reached with the Russian authorities a few months ago on the implementation of the first phase of the facility.

Construction of the project, which will take four years to operate with full capacity, started in March, the source said. As much as 30,000 tonnes of necessary materials were transported from Germany to Iran, he said. The German Government refused however to ferry another 7,000 tonnes, he added. [words indistinct]

Khamene'i Criticizes U.S. in Speech to Military Personnel

LD1304141694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, on 13 April; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] In this prayer house I wish to talk to you about a subject that concerns all the people of Iran. Some years ago—maybe 200 years—a struggle was forced on the Iranian nation. By whom? By power hungry powers who wanted to take control of every part of the world where there were natural resources, cultural heritage, means of gaining knowledge, talents, and take them back place them in the service of the civilization and policy which was newly born in Europe, that is the industrial civilization and the political set-up prevailing over the industrial civilization. [passage omitted]

That struggle was forced on the Iranian nation. By whom? By what we now call arrogance. In those days when arrogance came in, it came in directly and took over countries. Today it uses more advanced means of conquering and controlling nations and their resources. [passage omitted]

That struggle was forced on the Iranian nation. And today, too, they are aggressive and offensive. Of course, we grab the world's big powers by the scruff of the neck where ever they are. Why do we do that? Because they are offensive and oppressors. We do not let oppressors go, and say let go and we will let go. No, they are aggressors, they are offensive, and are constantly oppressing nations. We are not such a government or nation as to leave an aggressor and oppressor alone.

So, my dear brothers and sisters, that fight was forced on the Iranian nation many years ago. It is not a new matter. Of course when the Islamic revolution was victorious in this country and the previous regime, which was under the total control of arrogant powers, was overthrown, they naturally became more angry and the fight became harder and rougher. [passage omitted]

There has been a revolution, it has thrown out that puppet, subservient regime, and a government has come into power which bows to nothing on earth. It did not yield for one moment to the combined powers of America and the Soviet Union. [Crowd chants God is Great, Khamene'i is the Leader, Death to America, Death to Hypocrites, Death to Counterrevolution, Death to Israel]

Well, America and the Soviet Union disagreed on a hundred issues and agreed on some. One, and the most important, was putting pressure on the Islamic Republic. Obviously it was not otherwise. Whoever was on the scene could clearly see this. It was not anything anyone would hide. This regime stood up to the two of them put together. And now, too, the American rulers naively and foolishly think that they are the bosses of the world. They talk as if they are the managers of the whole earth. And some people, out of fear and weakness, say yes sir to them. But the Islamic Republic has stood up in all strength and says who are you? You are a power, a strong government, go and run your own country. If you are right, go and rid the streets of New York, Washington, and Los Angeles of unrest. If you are right, go and get rid of racism and the terrible violation of human rights, which still exists between blacks and whites. What business is it of yours to interfere in the world's affairs?

When such a government came into power here the struggle became more serious and stronger. It is not a joke. It is a question of America's interests, America's political, economic, and propaganda power, which has been slaughtered here and crushed. That has made them angry.

It is true that the struggle has been going on for 200 years, but then before the revolution the fight was against the Iranian nation from a position of strength on their side, and the Iranian Government was completely—at least in the last 50 years or more, since the end of the Qajar dynasty—under the control of arrogance. It was Britain one day, Russia the next, and then America. During the eight year Iran-Iraq war, both the United States and NATO, and the USSR and Warsaw Pact, tried so hard to dismember Iran by arming Iraq. We saw they failed; and today, therefore, their attempt is more serious and they are more angry. This is because they failed and were slapped on the mouth.

You are the military personnel. You know that in combat, be it a political and economic struggle or a military conflict, each side must rely on its own strong points and take advantage of the opposing side's weaknesses. You should find out what your strong points are. [passage omitted]

The Iranian people's belief in religion and spritual matters created a strong point for them; and that was one of the greatest national tests, the biggest courageous uprising of the entire history, leading to our great Islamic revolution in a sensitive juncture. The nation stood with this revolution and formed a government based on the revolution. This is the government of the Islamic Republic. We owe this to our religious belief. [passage omitted]

Today a group of disgraced pen-pushers are seeking to write articles to please the U.S. security organization, which rewards them with a few dollars. They write: The Iranian nation made a mistake by staging a revolution. That is, they belittle the Iranian nation's greatest act of courage, which gave them pride, by writing such articles that the Iranian nation made a mistake and regrets its revolution. May they face the Iranian nation's hatred. May such pen-pushers face the Iranian nation's abhorrence. [passage omitted]

Praise be to God, those in charge of the government today are not making any claims and are not demanding anything for themselves. Even the imam [Khomeyni], with such illustrious status, considered himself a servant of the people and was proud of it. The state authorities are proud to be the servants of the people. They say this explicitly: We are the servants of the people and we have come to serve the people. At the same time they serve for a period and are replaced by others later. This is highly valuable. This is a big strong point and we have other points of strength which I do not wish to enumerate at the moment.

Our enemy has been engaged in a struggle against us for the past 200 years. The enemy, thus, is striving to destroy as many of our strong points as possible. They think it is possible to destroy the people's religious faith. They have opened the flood of the western decadent lifestyle, prostitution, lust and hedonism to inundate the third world countries. They intend to direct this flood into our country too. They have already started. Look at the smugglers who import pornographic video cassettes, sexually provocative pictures, sexually arousing books, and magazines filled with nude and erotic pictures. If you pursue the matter, you will find out that some try to make a living out of this job, but they will not make their daily bread. That is, they will lose their daily bread elsewhere. They have been tasked to open the floodgates from the quagmire of corruption and lust into Iran and among the Iranian nation, particularly among its youths and families.

This, of course, is one of our strong points. A strong point which they are trying to take away from us. They are, after all, our sworn enemies and they are only doing what is expected of them. As enemies, they want you dead and destroyed. They want to destroy all points of strength, such as our popular government. Of course, a few years ago they started to realize that they can never achieve this. For this reason, they are now merely intent on giving our government a bad image. [passage omitted]

Everyone, thus, should remain vigilant , as we have before us an enemy which has been trying unsuccessfully for 15 years to hurt and harm us. Despite its failure, however, the enemy has not given up yet. Praise be to God, we have many strong points which need to be made even stronger—the strong points which I mentioned earlier, plus many others. Of course, we have a number of weak points which should be dealt with. We must be fully aware that the enemy is intent on taking away our points of strength. [passage omitted]

Possible Changes in U.S. Administration Assessed

LD1404125794 Tehran IRNA in English 1109 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] London, Apr. 14, IRNA—The American secretary of state, Warren Christopher, will resign by the end of this year and barring upsets, is expected to be replaced by his deputy, Strobe Talbott, say White House sources quoted by THE ECONOMIST's Foreign Report here.

U.S. foreign policy under Christopher was said to have been undynamic and a disappointment to the White House. The perception was that the previous republican administration would probably have been tougher and assertive if it remained in power. Foreign Report said that President Clinton had been unwillingly drawn into foreign policy issues instead of being allowed to concentrate on domestic affairs.

Some issues had been delegated to Vice President Al Gore rather than Christopher and more recently, the secretary of defense, Bill Perry, seemed to have been making the running on foreign policy.

Whether Talbott, the former Washington bureau chief of TIME magazine and long-standing friend of Clinton, makes American foreign policy, the weekly intelligence publication said, remained to be seen.

Although the deputy secretary of state knows Washington well and is a student of relations with Russia, he has held no personal experience of high office before.

President Seeks More Support for Domestic Industries

LD1204163594 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] The president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, today addressed a group of staff and managers from the Industries Ministry and Iran's Standards and Industrial Research Institute [SIRI]. In his address, the president considered positive the trend of developments in the industrial sector during the era of reconstruction. He added that viewing production as a central activity constituted a correct and proper program for making society's economic foundation stable and solid. The president added: At present the country has become self-sufficient in many areas. He stressed: With the operation of the petrochemical complex at Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni in the near future, the future prospects for the country's industrial sector will be even brighter than the present.

The president, moreover, referred to the important duty of the SIRI in controlling the quality of products, and said: Alongside the processes of improving production according to desired standards and obliterating the undesirable cultural trends of the past in connection with consumption of foreign-made commodities, one must also endeavor to pay more attention to the need to support the country's indigenous industrialists.

Revolution Guards To Test Helicopter Prototype

LD1304081994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0640 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] The first helicopter, made by the self-sufficiency jihad of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] and capable of flying two men on board, will begin its test flight soon. It is worth mentioning that all parts of this helicopter, except its engine, were designed and manufactured by the experts of the self-sufficiency jihad. Particular features of this helicopter make it superior to similar foreign made models.

President Receives New Turkish Ambassador, Views Ties

LD1304101494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] The new Turkish ambassador was today received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to present his credentials.

At the meeting Ahmed Mitat Balkan, the Turkish ambassador, conveyed the desire of the government and people of Turkey to expand ties with their great neighbor, Iran. He described the existing ties as deep-rooted. He expressed the hope that through exchange of high-ranking delegations between Iran and Turkey and greater efforts by the two countries' diplomatic missions, the existing relations and cooperation—including at the Economic Cooperation Organization and international forums—will be further expanded.

According to a Central News Unit correspondent's report Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described as positive the grounds for the expansion of cooperation between the two neighboring countries, Iran and Turkey, especially in regional issues, the joint committee, Central Asia and Caucasus.

Referring to the mischief-making of Turkish media, aimed at marring the spirit of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, he stressed the need for the two countries' authorities to remain alert to foil those mischiefs.

Interior Minister Comments on Use of Satellite Dishes

NC1404125094 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Apr 94 pp 1, 14

[Text] Tehran—The use of satellite dishes is on the agenda at cabinet proceedings and a decision will be made within a month, said Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

In an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES, the minister said, "The use of satellite dishes is not illegal, but will need to be authorized."

Besharati was commenting on earlier reports by the local press which quoted him as saying that satellite dishes are 'illegal and will all be confiscated within two months.'

There were fears after the interior minister's announcement that some could take undue advantage of the situation and blackmail those who are now using dishes.

"The issue is under discussion by the cabinet and a comprehensive decision is to be made within a month," said Besharati.

President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet meets every Wednesday.

Satellite dishes began mushrooming on rooftops in the last two years and the Persian daily SALAM recently reported that 400 dishes were being installed in Tehran daily.

"The cabinet will approve rules and regulations on the use of dishes and the Interior Ministry will be responsible for their enforcement," Besharati said.

"Of course the Interior Ministry will give enough time for dish users to surrender them to the ministry voluntarily," he said.

Besharati said a commission comprising representatives from the Islamic Propagation Organization and the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance will set rules and regulations for issuing permission for satellite dish use.

He said foreign missions in Iran should apply for permission and it will be granted to them.

"Before the cabinet's approval and an announcement by the Interior Ministry, no one is authorized to confiscate the dishes and if approached by someone who wants to, people should inform the nearest police station," Besharati emphasized.

Saudi Ban on Distributing Pictures During Hajj 'Deplored'

LD1304154594 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran April 13, IRNA—A Majlis (parliament) deputy here Wednesday deplored latest decision of the Saudi Ministry of Pilgrimage (Hajj) Affairs and Awqaf to ban distribution of pictures and written materials during the annual Hajj ceremonies.

Baratali Samadi-Far, deputy of Sonqor-e-Koliayee in Majlis, also criticized Riyadh for cutting down the quota of the Iranian pilgrims for this year's Hajj. "This is clearly in contradiction with the text of the holy Koran," he added.

Also speaking at the open session of the Majlis today deputy from Ahwaz, 'Ali Motavvari, said the enemies of Islam led by the world devouring U.S. have concentrated their efforts on playing down the the presence of the Iranians in the Hajj rituals and other international gatherings.

Parviz Seiqali, from the Langroud Constituency, Gilan Province, in his pre-agenda speech also accused the U.S. of attempting to make Iranian people disappointed by exerting economic and psychological pressures on them.

Commentary Says Hadera Shows Palestinian Determination

NC1404074294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Commentary prepared by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The martyr-seeking attack by Palestinian mujahidin on a bus carrying Zionists in the Hadera area of Tel Aviv, the capital of the usurping Zionist regime, shows again the firm determination of the Palestinian uprising to continue the struggle until the occupied territories are liberated. The attack, which left over 30 dead and wounded Zionists, is the second martyr-seeking operation within a week and comes within the framework of a promise of five attacks by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to avenge the blood shed unjustly by the worshippers at the Ibrahimi Mosque in al-Khalil.

Political analysts believe that two major processes have been reigning over the Palestinian crisis. The first is the process of compromise between the politically bankrupt organizations abroad and the Zionist regime, a process that entered a new phase six months ago with the signing of the Gaza-Jericho self-rule compromise. This compromise is part of a greater plan based on bilateral and collective talks between Arab governments and the Zionist regime, which started two years ago in Madrid and are continuing in Washington.

The second process that reigns over the Palestinian crisis is the Intifadah, which is based on expanding the collective struggle of the Palestinian Muslims inside the occupied territories. In this all-aspected jihad, the Muslim Palestinians resort to various methods of struggle and retaliate against the suppressive and terrorist methods used by the aggressive and usurping Zionist regime.

The same political analysts add that the process of compromise that rules the Palestinian and Middle East crisis has faced extensive problems because it is imposed and illogical. The Madrid-Washington talks, which, according to their engineers, should have yielded results within two years, have achieved no perceptible result even though four months have passed since the deadline and they are at an impasse. 'Arafat's compromise with the Zionist regime is facing a similar fate and the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho self-rule plan, which was to start with the withdrawal of the aggressive Zionist forces from these areas, has thrice been postponed.

Because of its roots in the Palestinian territory and nation, the intifadah has intensified such that the Zionist leaders no longer hide their concern. The success scored by the Muslim Palestinian combatants in planning and carrying out jihad operations shows that contrary to what the Palestinian and Arab compromisers think, the equation that rules the Middle East crisis is not unilateral and that if a nation insists on its rights, the enemy must inevitably surrender.

Tehran Assesses Israeli Tactics, Says 'Arafat 'Loser'

NC1304091494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Commentary by News research and commentary group]

[Text] Again the Zionist regime has canceled a date, that for the withdrawal of the occupying Zionist forces from the autonomous Gaza-Jericho region, which was due to take place on 13 April. In the seven months since the signing of the Gaza-Jericho Autonomy Accord between 'Arafat and Tel Aviv, this is the third time that Israel has unilaterally trampled upon the deadline agreed for withdrawal and postponed it in utter disregard of Palestine and international public opinion.

Israel has implied that the pullout could take place in the last days of Ordibehesht [21 April-21 May] but the Palestinians, even those participating in the compromising talks, do not trust these deadlines. In practice, the Palestinian region has witnessed more violence, clashes, arrests, and massacres of Palestinians since the signing of the Gaza-Jericho Accord.

The face of the occupied territories has not changed as regards peace and compromise and Zionist units continue in their operations of pursuit and killing. Palestinian citizens still suffer the throes of hunger, disease, arrests, and annihilation. In this period, the usurped territories, especially the Gaza Strip, have experienced the most prolonged economic and military siege. These areas have been resealed for many consecutive weeks.

But do not ignore that even if Israel has ostensibly agreed to withdraw from the Gaza-Jericho region, in practice, it has continued to renege on adhering to these agreements. Basically, it has no intention of doing so. What will be implemented, if it ever is, will be a mere reshuffling of arrangements and deployment of the occupying forces in these regions. All that will be achieved is the removal of the Zionist forces from the streets in Gaza and Jericho and the deployment of Palestinian forces. They will be stationed around the 19 Zionist settlements in the region.

Although this will remove the Zionist forces from public view, the change in the array of forces will fully reveal the true military nature of the Zionist settlements. Despite the Zionist regime's constant reneging or rearranging of its forces, the series of 'Arafat's talks with this regime continues. Every round results in a new retreat by the compromising Palestinians and new concessions for the Zionist regime. What is interesting is that in time, as the privileges given to the Zionist regime increase, the hope of its withdrawal decreases.

'Arafat has gambled in this dangerous game and has staked his reputation and his political and military resources and has closed every path of return for himself. This has resulted in his forfeiting the support of the Palestinian nation and its popular base. He is the main loser in this dangerous game, which has no prospects.

Regime's 'Antipopular' Policy on Kurds Viewed

NC1404091894 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] During the past few months, the clerical regime has again limited border transactions in the Iranian-Iraqi border areas and regime officials in the various cities of Kordestan are alleging that this directive has been issued by the National Security Council and should be seriously [words [indistinct].

When the residents in Iranian and Iraqi Kurdistan can meet their needs through such local transactions, the closing of routes and borders in this way is considered incorrect, a kind of hostility by the Islamic Republic against the people of Iraqi Kurdistan.

The clerical regime has not closed the border routes to everyone and every type of transaction. It has encouraged some of its own people and profiteering entrepreneurs to disregard the closure of the borders and go to Iraqi Kurdistan to continue the regime's old policy of plundering and pillaging national assets and destroying the economic basis of the region. [passage omitted]

A glance at this antipopular attitude shows the depth of the regime's hostility toward the Kurdish people on both sides of the border. It also shows that by plundering and pillaging Iraqi Kurdistan it wants to destroy the livelihood of the people in this area and that it is determined to resort to violence toward the people in Iranian Kordestan to keep them impoverished.

The Islamic Republic is doing its best to upset things in Iraqi Kurdistan and it stops at no plot or unsuitable act in this direction. The clergymen are constantly trying to coordinate their policy and acts with Ankara and Damascus against the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Clearly, the Islamic Republic is not satisfied with this and, by persistently trying to export narcotics and terrorist elements in a bid to spread corruption and insecurity in Iraqi Kurdistan, it is daily increasing the hostility it shows toward the Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan. Undoubtedly, the people in Iraqi Kurdistan have realized the hostile nature of the clerical regime and know of its tension seeking policies. They know how hostile the Islamic Republic is toward the Kurdish people in general and how dissatisfied it is with things in Iraqi Kurdistan in particular. The people's hatred and aversion toward the Islamic Republic of Iran grow daily and the regime is regarded as the sworn enemy of the Kurds.

Tehran Notes Peres Visit to Turkey, Ankara's Approach

NC1304075194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary: "New Step To Improve Relations Between Tel Aviv and Ankara"]

[Text] Shim'on Peres, foreign minister of the Zionist regime, has arrived in Ankara on a three-day official visit. Tel Aviv and Ankara officials will hold talks on the most important regional and international issues and the expansion and strengthening of relations between the Zionist regime and Turkey during his visit.

The high-ranking mutual visits between Ankara and Tel Aviv have significantly promoted their bilateral political relations. They have also promoted their relations on issues relating to trade, defense, and security. Turkey and the Zionist regime have reached agreements on free trade, improving bilateral trade relations, cooperation in the defense industry, improving relations in tourism, and supplying water from the Manavgat River to occupied Palestine. The main objective of Peres' visit to Ankara can be described as reaching a final agreement on the two countries' plan to supply water to Israel from the Manavgat River, which is on Turkey's Mediterranean coastline.

One of the main reasons why Tel Aviv wants to improve its relations with Ankara is the Zionist regime's need for the water of the Euphrates, Tigris, and Manavgat Rivers in Turkey. According to the Zionist regime's leading officials, Tel Aviv can solve the water problem, which stops many Jews resettling in the occupied land, that is, if that regime can have itself accepted as a country that shares the region's water resources with Ankara's support. The Zionist regime's officials are convinced that Turkey, as a NATO country and a close U.S. ally in the region, can make a significant contribution to the effort to step up the pace of the talks on the so-called Middle East peace plan. That will help the Zionist regime, which still occupies Jerusalem, to remain and increase its strength in the region.

That Islamic movements in Turkey and the region are gradually gaining strength must not be overlooked. Obviously, it has made Turkey and Israel uneasy. The recent victory achieved by the Prosperity Party in the local elections in Turkey is a clear sign of the strength the Islamic movement has gained in that country. The issue of Islamic movements has always been a priority in the talks held between Turkey and Israel. Undoubtedly, the issue will have priority in the talks that Shim'on Peres will have in Ankara.

Considering all that, Peres' visit to Turkey can be described as a new step to promote bilateral relations and draw the policies of the two sides closer. The objection of the Islamic people in Turkey, which is an Islamic country, to the improvement of Ankara's relations with the Zionist regime has worried the two sides. Both have identified the psychological obstacle. But officials of the two countries continue to promote their relations as much as possible. Political observers in the region have assessed the demonstrations held by thousands of Islamic people in Turkey against the United States and the Zionist regime on the eve of Peres' visit to Ankara as a warning against Tel Aviv's expansionist and hegemonist policies in the region.

Paper Views Status of Relations With Pakistan

LD1404105794 Tehran IRNA in English 0939 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA—The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' here Thursday commented on Iran-Pakistan ties and said that all the official and flowery expressions of 'concrete fraternal relations' were rich in rhetoric but poor in action. The daily wrote in its editorial that though the two leaderships thought alike in almost all areas, regional and international, they moved with delay when it came to reinforcing their economic, social, scientific and cultural ties.

The level of economic and cultural exchanges between Pakistan and Iran in the two years had been far from satisfactory, it added.

Referring to Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri's visit to Pakistan and the agreements reached between officials of the two countries, the article hoped that the follow-up work would be coordinated and implemented professionally as planned and the senior officials would not get so pre-occupied with 'priority issues' on their return home that they would forget what was agreed upon and signed during the visit.

The paper concluded by saying that "the existing situation is disturbing and may damage the excellent political ties Tehran and Islamabad enjoy. Our president and the leadership in Islamabad should identify and address issues to promote relations beneficial to the two Muslim peoples."

TEHRAN TIMES Views Iran's Role in Tajik-Russian Talks

NC1404120494 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Apr 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Moscow Talks, a New Text"]

[Text] As the Tajikistan peace talks continue in Moscow, the Tajik Labor Minister who heads his government's delegation, has expressed hopes that the outcome of the first round of talks would pave the way for signing of a final agreement by the leaders of two sides.

The talks are hosted by Russia and supervised by Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The new mediation initiated by Russia and Iran, is in fact a new attempt to restore stability to crisis spots in Central Asia and the Caucasus by the two influential countries in the region.

But in order for this cooperation to continue, mutual trust is required. The Russians have once attempted to launch a coup d'etat in Tajikistan without taking into account the wishes of the Tajik Muslims and today we are watching how the Russians are sinking deeper in the quagmire they themselves have created in Tajikistan.

In this round of the peace talks too, the Russians witnessed that Iran used its "spiritual influence" among the combatant Tajik groups and urged them to attend the Moscow talks. But as influential opposition leaders such as Akbar Tourjanzadeh and Sharif Hematzadeh were on their way to Moscow, news from the Russian capital indicated the participation of a low-level delegation on behalf of the Tajik government. In other words, none of the regime ruling over Dushanbe are attending the Moscow talks. This move in itself would create a sense of "mistrust" in the combatant Tajik groups towards the real intention of the Russians and the Dushanbe government.

If the Russians are really for restoration of peace and tranquility in Tajikistan, they should prepare the ground for the people's rule and sovereignty while at the same time maintain an impartial stance in the mediation efforts.

Regrettably, news from Tajikistan is of continued pressure on and torture of the people of Badakhshan and Pamir, as well as those migrants who are now returning to their villages, by the Tajik government. A halt to these crimes is necessary as a sign of goodwill by the Tajik government in order to guarantee the continuation of the talks and fulfillment of a peaceful solution.

Pakistan

Wrapup of Reports on Visit of Iranian Parliamentary Speaker

Nateq-Nuri Addresses Assembly

BK1104162794 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The speaker of the Iranian parliament, 'Ali Akbar Nateq- Nuri, has said Pakistan can always count on strong Iranian support in the wake of complex regional and global situations. Addressing a special session of the National Assembly in Islamabad this morning, Mr. Nateq-Nuri fully supported Pakistan's stand on the

Kashmir issue and its stance on acquiring nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. The Iranian speaker called upon the Muslim ummah [community] to beware of the conspiracies being hatched against the Muslim world. Unity alone, he emphasized, can pull the Muslim world out of the present difficult situation.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri called for an immediate end to the atrocities in occupied Kashmir and allowing the Kashmiri people to exercise their right of self-determination. He warned that if serious efforts were not made to resolve the Kashmir issue, it will pave the way for those seeking power domination in the region and plunge the region into a state of instability and tension.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri also endorsed Iran's full support to Pakistan for acquiring nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. He said the West is against the acquisition of such a technology by any Islamic country in the world. These countries, he said, are silent over the nuclear program being followed by Israel. There should be no double standards, he emphasized. Iran, he said, did not advocate the proliferation of nuclear arms and said the whole world should be free from such weapons.

During the course of his inspired speech, the Iranian speaker also spoke on the situation in Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Afghanistan. He asked the ummah to join hands for the assistance of these people. He said the demolition of the Babri Masjid [mosque] is another conspiracy against the Muslims and Islam and strongly condemned these acts. He demanded immediate reconstruction and restoration of the Babri Masjid.

Earlier, welcoming Mr. Nateq-Nuri, the speaker of the National Assembly, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, said the parliamentarians of the Islamic countries have a special role to play in view of the challenges being faced by the Muslim world today. During talks with Mr. Nateq-Nuri, he said we have resolved to work together for the well-being of the Muslim ummah. We want to complement our efforts in establishing an association of interparliamentary union of Muslim countries as well as an association on interparliamentarians of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Law and Parliamentary Minister Syed Iqbal Haider, welcomed the speech of the Iranian speaker and said it is a great source of inspiration to the Pakistani Government and people. He said the visit of the Iranian speaker will lead to the strengthening of existing cordial relations between the two countries. The sentiments expressed by the Iranian speaker for the Muslims of Bosnia, Palestine, and particularly for the valiant struggle launched by the people of Kashmir are a great source of satisfaction.

The deputy leader of the opposition, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan, in his speech said Iran always stood with Pakistan in hour of crisis. The relations between the two countries are extremely cordial and strong links bind the people of both the countries.

Hojjat-ol Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri called on the president, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, in Islamabad. They discussed matters of mutual interest in the meeting which lasted one and a half hours. The president paid rich tributes to the late Iranian spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, and prayed for the progress and prosperity of the Iranian people. A 15-member delegation also accompanied the Iranian speaker.

Meets Leaders From Afghanistan

LD1104195194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Leaders and representatives of Afghan mojahedin based in Pakistan met and conferred with Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri at the Iranian Embassy in Islamabad today. The meeting was also attended by Sebqatollah Mojadadi, the leader of the National Salvation Front, and Pir Seyed Ahmad Gilani, the leader of the National Islamic Front, and representatives of other Afghan mojahedin groups. Nateq-Nuri was informed of the latest developments in Afghanistan and the stances of Afghan groups. Those present called on Iran to take part in resolving the Afghan crisis.

The Majles speaker gave a speech at the meeting, stressing that the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be indifferent toward the events in Afghanistan. He said: Iran is prepared to participate in resolving the Afghan crisis. But the Afghan groups must demonstrate their good will.

He added: During talks with the Pakistani authorities decisions were made about the serious participation of Iran and Pakistan in resolving the Afghan crisis, which will be acted on when conditions are ripe, provided the warring groups are ready.

Nateq-Nuri also called for the shedding of factional and sectarian prejudices in Afghanistan. He warned: If a foreign power gains a foothold in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan the 14-year struggles of the Afghan mojahedin will be lost.

He called for an end to the conflict under the banner of Islam's teachings. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will not begrudge any assistance in the establishment of security and an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

After the meeting, the Majles speaker met and conferred with Wasim Sajad, the speaker of Pakistan's Senate. [passage omitted]

Meets Compatriots in Islamabad

LD1204092994 Tehran IRNA in English 0732 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Islamabad, April 12, IRNA—The visiting speaker of Iran's Majlis (parliament) 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Monday called for closer ties between the Iranian nation and people of other countries especially the Muslims. Addressing a group of Iranians residing here, the speaker warned against elements attempting to sow discord among Muslims and reminded them of their grave responsibility in foiling such conspiracies.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri touched on the friendly Tehran-Islamabad ties and called on the Iranians residing in Pakistan to make efforts to further strengthen the ties.

The Majlis speaker arrived here Sunday on a five-day official visit on the first leg of his three-nation tour which will also take him to Sri Lanka and Malaysia.

Holds News Conference 12 Apr

LD1204110194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Dear listeners, as you heard earlier, Mr. Nateq-Nuri, the Majles speaker, visited the Iran-Pakistan-Persian Research Center in Islamabad today and took part in a news conference in which he answered reporters' questions. Our correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] Mr. Nateq-Nuri described the results of his trip to this country as positive and said: Our discussions revealed that the two countries share the same viewpoints with respect to the issues of the world of Islam. In response to a question, the Majles speaker, who was speaking to correspondents, denied having any discussions with Pakistani authorities about cooperation on the manufacture and use of nuclear weapons. He said: We support the peaceful use of nuclear technology by Pakistan.

On the Kashmir issue, he said: The Islamic Republic of Iran can be a good mediator toward the resolution of this problem. He added: On the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it has been agreed that a delegation consisting of representatives of Islamic countries will be sent to study the situation in the part of Kashmir under the control of India and the members of this delegation have been selected.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri described Iran and Pakistan's capabilities for supplying one another's requirements as plentiful, saying: The Islamic Republic of Iran has agreed to increase the volume of gas exports to this country from 25,000 tonnes to 50,000 tonnes.

Elsewhere in the news conference, the Majles speaker explained that, with regard to Iran's three Persian Gulf islands [Abu Musa and the Lesser and Greater Tunbs], we are prepared to continue the contacts toward the resolution of the difficulties.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri also visited the Iran-Pakistan-Persian Research Center in Islamabad today. During the visit and in a gathering of dozens of Persian language lecturers in Pakistan, the Majles speaker called for the greatest possible efforts to be made to revive this language in Pakistan, and he described such efforts as very effective toward the protection of that country's cultural heritage.

Condemns U.S. 'Arrogance'

LD1204164894 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Islamabad, April 12, IRNA—The speaker of Iran's parliament told a group of Pakistani Shiite and Sunni ulama here Tuesday that what has terrified global arrogance and the U.S. in particular today is the spread of Islamism in Muslim countries.

The speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri also said the enemies of Islam were seriously concerned about the revival of Islamic movements in the remotest parts of the world and even in Europe.

He said the utterance of the word, Allah and the phrase Allaho Akbar (There is no god but Allah) is considered an offense by the global arrogance and that any body who abides by Islamic laws will be the target of U.S. propaganda ad military attacks.

"It is for this very reason that we now see enemies of Islam committing crimes against Muslims including women and children in every part of Islamic lands," he said.

Nateq-Nuri also warned that the U.S. was trying to prevent Muslims from getting united and engage them in internal problems in a bid to contain the spread of Islam.

"Muslims should seriously avoid discord, settle their differences by themselves and not allow foreigners to interfere in their internal affairs," he advised.

The unity between Shiites and Sunnis has been materialized in Iran for years, he said, adding "we appeal to world Muslims to follow the pattern of unity and sincerity between their Shiite and Sunni brothers in Iran."

Addressing Pakistani ulama, the Majlis speaker said the zealot Islamic groups who sow discord among Muslims are certainly against their interests.

Discusses ECO Common Trade Market

BK1304030194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Iranian Parliament Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri has underlined the need for establishment of a common trade market of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] member-countries.

Speaking at a banquet in his honor hosted by Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad in Islamabad yesterday, he said pooling the resources of the ECO member-countries and increasing mutual cooperation in all fields are very essential. Nateq-Nuri said bilateral fraternal relations have stood every test of time and the two countries maintain identical views on several regional and international issues.

Speaking on the occasion, Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad called upon Iran to use its influence to persuade India to fulfill its pledge of granting the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people. He said the peaceful settlement of the Kashmir problem will pave the way for peace and meaningful cooperation among all countries of this region. Sajjad stressed the need for regular consultations and cooperation between Iran and Pakistan, so that the legitimate rights of the Muslims of Kashmir, Palestine, and Bosnia can be protected.

Visits Lahore, Meets Officials

LD1304083894 Tehran IRNA in English 0751 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Islamabad, April 13, IRNA—The visiting Iranian Majlis speaker, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, arrived in the city of Lahore in Punjab Province Wednesday and was warmly welcomed by the local Muslim people and ulema. Enthusisastic people chanting 'Death to America' and 'Death to Israel' lined up from the airport to the city to receive the Iranian Majlis speaker.

According to an official at Iranian's culture center in Lahore, people from various cities of Punjab had arrived in the city and spent the night in religious places as well as at the culture center to meet Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri.

One of the officials in charge of the welcoming ceremonies told IRNA that Lahore was rather spending a holiday today so that people could take part in the ceremonies.

An Iranian student in Lahore said that such an unprecedented welcome by the people had been only given to the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Khamene'i and to President Rafsanjani.

Upon his arrival to the city, Nateq-Nuri visited the tomb of Pakistan's great Muslim poet, Iqbal Lahori, where he laid a wreath of flowers. The Majlis speaker arrived in Pakistan Sunday and has so far held talks with high-ranking Pakistani officials including President Faruq Ahmad Leghari, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, heads of parliament, Shiite and Sunni Muslim ulema, and Afghan leaders.

The Iranian delegation will later leave Lahore for Karachi.

Further on Activities in Lahore

LD1304212894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our correspondent, Khamene, reports from Islamabad on the activities of the speaker of the Islamic consultative Majlis on the fourth day of his visit to Pakistan:

[Khamene] Continuing his visit to Pakistan, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, Majlis speaker, arrived in Lahore and attended a ceremony in which more than 250 Pakistani scholars and spiritual leaders from various Islamic sects, ministers, deputies, and personalities from Punjab were present. In the ceremony, Mr. Nateq-Nuri referred to the hostile attitude of America towards Islam and Muslims and stressed: The Islamic community should set aside factionalism and safeguard its vigilance and preparedness in order to foil American ploys and conspiracies.

The Majlis speaker mentioned that the increasing trend of support for Islam and pro-Islamic activity in various parts of the world has petrified the enemies of Islam and particularly America. He added: The world arrogance and the devourer America design a conspiracy against the world of Islam and Muslims each day. Under such circumstances, any person who causes discord among Muslims, under any pretext, has betrayed God and is an American lackey.

The Majlis speaker condemned oppressive measures and aggressive acts which take place against Muslims in Bosnia, Kashmir, and Palestine and said: America and arrogance do not care who is a Shiite or a Sunni. It is enough for a person to believe in prayers and the Qiblah to be killed or subjected to assault.

He honored the memory of the Muslim Pakistani martyrs who protested against the apostate Salman Rushdie and said: We must expand unity among Muslims, shun sectarianism, and hold hands to protect Islam and Muslims.

During the ceremonies, Mowlana Aslam Salimi, Pir Asef Ali Shah Gaylani, Mowlana Abdolqader Azad and Mowlana Abdol Rashid, who are among the prominent Sunni scholars of the Pakistani Punjab, applauded the high status of Imam Khomeyni and praised decisive stances adopted by the late Imam and the Islamic Republic of Iran to confront problems faced by Muslims and the world of Islam.

Nateq-Nuri's Visit To End 14 Apr

LD1404061294 Tehran IRNA in English 0449 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Lahore, April 14, IRNA—Iran's Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Nateq-Nuri here Wednesday stressed the importance of the role that parliaments play in protecting rights of the people, specially in Islamic countries.

Addressing the vice-speaker and deputies at Punjab assembly, the speaker further added that the main responsibility of Muslim deputies is not to let ethnic disputes leave a negative impact on the assembly's approvals.

In response, vice-speaker of Punjab assembly Manzoor Moohel referred to cultural, historical, and religious relations between the two countries and stressed further expansion and strengthening of mutual ties. "Iran is our best friend and we are proud of it," he added.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri later met governor general of Punjab Altaf Hussein who called on the speaker to provide the people of the state with more books in Persian language.

He said the Iranian speaker's visit to Pakistan would pave the way for further friendly ties between the two nations.

Altaf Hussein said that people of Pakistan had a keen interest in the Persian language and said that the government was making efforts to restore the real status of the language in pakistan.

Also on Wednesday, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri met with Shi'ite and Sunni Muslim ulema as well as with the Iranians residing in Lahore.

Speaking to the clergy, the speaker stressed the need for continuation of the movement for the revival of the Islamic thoughts and called on the world Muslims to support Islam and Holy Quran and struggle against conspiracies of the world arrogance in Palestine and Bosnia.

Referring to the growing trend of Islamic revivalism in all Muslim states, Nateq-Nuri said that it was the same Islamic tendency which had scared the U.S. and its lackey agents.

Earlier on the day, the speaker met with Iranians residing in Lahore whom he referred to as the "ambassadors" of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the meeting the speaker noted that Iran as an independent country would not allow any power to interfere in its decisionmaking.

The speaker is to conclude his five-day visit to Pakistan and leave for Sri Lanka today in the continuation of his three-nation tour which will also take him to Malaysia.

2d Iranian Official Comments

LD1404103594 Tehran IRNA in English 0727 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Lahore, April 14, IRNA—A senior Majlis deputy said here Wednesday that the Islamic Iran would not stand the massacre of Muslims and pressures against them in any part of the world including Kashmir. Vice-Chairman of Majlis foreign policy commission Mohammad Javad Larijani who is currently accompanying Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri in his tour of Pakistan, told IRNA that one of the valuable outcomes of Tehran-Islamabad talks was the speaker's proposal for the formation of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] inter-parliamentary group.

Representatives have been appointed by the two countries to follow up agreements reached between the two sides, Larijani noted, adding "we hope that the organization would be formed by the next year". Voicing Iran's readiness to cooperate in bringing an end to Kashmir problem, the Iranian parliamentarian called for negotiations between the belligerent parties to settle the dispute. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that Kashmiri people should determine their own fate, Larijani remarked.

Underlining geopolitical and economic importance of the two countries, Larijani noted that with a total population of 200 million and their access to different parts of Asia, specially the Indian Ocean, Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf, Iran and Pakistan, should be regarded as core for any regional arrangement, Larijani concluded.

Editorial Reviews, Hails Visit

BK1304070794 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 13 Apr 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Affirming Pak-Iran relations"]

[Text] The speaker of the Iranian Majles (parliament) 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, while addressing a special session of the National Assembly Monday condemned what he described as the 'selective morality' of the West, saying it wanted to deprive the Muslim world of nuclear technology while closing its eyes to the nuclear military capability developed by Israel. Speaker Nuri also assured the Pakistani legislators of Iran's unstinted support to the Kashmiris right of self-determination. In this regard he called for a peaceful and just solution of the problem in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. 'Pakistan can rely on Iran's principled stance on Kashmir,' he is reported to have declared, perhaps clarifying Iranian position which came under fire after Tehran along with Beijing asked Islamabad to withdraw its resolution pertaining to Kashmiris' human rights violations, in Geneva.

It did come as a shock to an average Pakistani that Tehran had played a role in this context and drew a reaction which could not be called favourable, to say the least. Speaker Nuri's assertion on Monday should set at rest fears in this country that Tehran, in an attempt to cosy up to New Delhi primarily for economic reasons, might proportionately have distanced itself from Islamabad. Iran has been Pakistan's friend for long and if certain reports are to be believed, during Shah's period, Islamabad's primary source of information on Israel. Diplomacy is a dicey game and involves juxtaposing conflicting configuration of forces. Amidst everything, principles notwithstanding, the national interest reigns supreme. The kinds of pressures a country has to put up with in fine-tuning a policy often remains hidden from public view. Speaker Nuri was evidently voicing his country's policy when he castigated human rights violations in Indian-occupied Kashmir. Together, there is much that the two countries can achieve. Iran could benefit from Pakistan in the field of civil engineering and conversely, Pakistan could do with the Iranian expertise in setting up oil refineries. As founder members of the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD), renamed ECO (Economic Cooperation Organisation), there are many areas in which the two countries can tap each other's potential. It is perhaps time that we recast our approach to diplomatic relations, purging it of the sentimentality one would normally attach to personal relations.

Editorial Hails Iran's Support on Nuclear, Kashmir Issues

BK1304101694 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 13 Apr 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Iranian Speaker's Address—Where Do We Stand?"]

[Text] Iranian Parliament Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri addressed the Pakistan National Assembly and has fully and strongly supported Pakistan on its nuclear program and the Kashmir issue. He warned that attempts by any foreign power to influence events in the region will go against the security interests of the neighboring Islamic countries. Iran has established close friendly relations with Pakistan after the Islamic revolution and has always sympathized with Islamabad whenever it faced problems.

The manner in which Nateq-Nuri, in his National Assembly speech, has openly assured Iran's support on the serious problems facing Pakistan will further strengthen the spirit of Islamic brotherhood in this region. In fact, the nuclear issue or the Kashmir dispute does not affect Pakistan alone, but they also have a direct impact on the neighboring Islamic states. If Pakistan is made weak, God forbid, in the nuclear field, then it will lead to the weakening of the entire Muslim community. If, under the alleged conspiracies, a third option [preceding two words in English] is adopted to settle the Kashmir dispute, then it is feared the United States and anti-Islamic forces might turn Kashmir into a base for international machination and from there orchestrate their conspiracies to weaken the Muslim countries of the region. Iran is also facing U.S. pressure on the nuclear issue, and, hence, it can fully realize Pakistan's difficulties in this regard. Nateq-Nuri's remarks help us to assess to what extent Iran desires to see Pakistan militarily become strong.

Coincidentally, the Iranian speaker arrived in Islamabad the same day the U.S. delegation was departing from Pakistan. On that occasion, Pakistan and the United States issued a joint statement expressing their resolve to continue to strive to strengthen bilateral relations. The U.S. delegation was led by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, who had come to Pakistan after visiting India. The main purpose of his visit was nothing but to help eliminate the nuclear arms race in the Indian subcontinent. However, it is ironic that while in India nobody listened to what Mr. Talbott had to say, in Pakistan his delegation was welcomed and heard very enthusiastically. Even though the Government of Pakistan asserts that no national interest was compromised, the wording of the joint statement and the expression of happiness on the face of Talbott during his meetings with the president and the prime minister and at the news briefing rightly lead one to suspect what success led the U.S. representative to display such a sense of happiness. The use of vague language in the joint statement itself reflects the success of the U.S. stand. The foreign media is also giving the same impression. Even though the supply of F-16's has not been tied to the capping of the nuclear program, Pakistan has also not openly showed a red signal to the U.S. moves; it is worth noting that the two countries will adopt the path of "quiet diplomacy" to resolve the nuclear issue. This method is definitely useful for the United States, but it is also tantamount to openly deceiving the Pakistani people. The Government of Pakistan, therefore, must remain cognizant of the fact that the people will never accept any compromise—open or secret—on their independence, security, and sovereignty! The government must not commit even the slightest mistake in understanding the feelings of the nation. Similar are the sentiments of the neighboring Islamic states and further progress in the nuclear program is essential for enhancing the strength of both Pakistan and the Islamic community.

'Strategic Shift' in Iran's Regional Policy Viewed

BK1404082794 Islamabad THE NATION in English 14 Apr 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Ties with Iran"]

[Text] Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the visiting Speaker of the Iranian Majles, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri has talked about a wide range of matters relating to Pak-Iranian relations. However, the thrust of his pronouncements was to explain away what has been widely seen in Pakistan as a 'tilt towards India' in Iran's foreign relations. Ever since the Iranians changed their mind at the eleventh hour in Geneva and expressed inability to vote for Pakistan's resolution on human rights abuses in occupied Kashmir, albeit they were said to have brokered a face-saving compromise, opinion leaders in Pakistan have been trying to comprehend the implications of the odd phenomenon. And, notwithstanding Islamabad's endeavour to play down the Iranian dissidence, there have been apprehensions that a strategic shift in Iran's perception of regional alignments may well be on the anvil. The Iranian speaker has been candid enough to acknowledge that relations with India have assumed a special significance for his country. "We cannot ignore the Muslims living in India," he said. Whether or not his alibi for a drift towards closer cooperation with India was convincing, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri did not mince words to put across the message that the Iranians did not share Pakistan's perception of India's role in the region, and were willing to take initiatives which may be deemed as pro India by Pakistanis at large. Though he was eager to underscore that Iran's relations with other countries, particularly India, will not affect friendship with Pakistan, the new-born pragmatism in Iran's outlook on friendship and alliances calls for a review of Islamabad's foreign policy agenda.

Given the fraternal bonds of religion and culture and the geopolitical compulsions, Iran is not likely to dump Pakistan for the sake of securing a regional arrangement with India, but what needs to be accepted as a fait accompli is the signal that Iran will not necessarily go along with Pakistan on issues of discord in the region. The overriding concern in Tehran appears to be to break its international isolation and play a significant role in regional politics. The offer to mediate on Kashmir is a veritable indication of Tehran's urge to play the honest broker in regional disputes and acquire a measure of leverage in power politics. Thus, Islamabad will have to reckon with Tehran's growing quest for self-assertion and its agenda thereof for seeking new power alignments.